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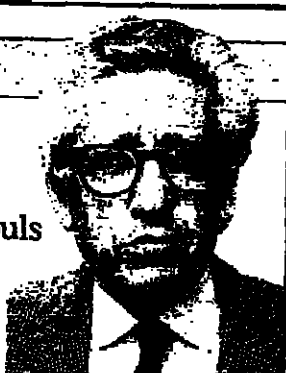
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**NINETIES MAN**

HOW TO DRESS IN STYLE FOR A SNIP

**MAGAZINE**



## England return to five nations as TV clash is settled

By DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE five nations' championship, the oldest and most popular competition in the world of rugby union, was saved yesterday at a meeting between representatives of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales.

The championship, which started in 1909 with the addition of France, was in danger because the three Celtic nations threatened to expel England for breaking a gentlemen's agreement over the negotiation of broadcasting rights. That decision

would have been taken in Dublin next Monday, when the other countries were due to announce an alternative tournament excluding England.

However, seven senior figures from the home unions met until 2.10 am yesterday in the offices of the International Rugby Football Board in Bristol to achieve a resolution. The meeting, which took place with the knowledge of France, "resulted in an accord which has saved the five nations' championship for the coming season and for the foreseeable future," a statement

said. The resolution of a potentially disastrous dispute for the European game will be welcomed by rugby supporters throughout the world, though many may ask why such a damaging debate lasted so long. It was generally recognised that the break-up of the championship would remove the most attractive and commercially viable of competitions from the sporting calendar.

"The deal is fair and equitable for England," said Colin Herdridge, the RFU treasurer, although full details will not be revealed until Monday. However it is understood that the union's broadcasting deal with BSkyB has not been compromised — after this season half the five-nations matches are likely to be seen live on a terrestrial channel and half on satellite — nor has the money promised to the top 24 clubs in England been affected.

"Resolving the five nations' issue must help in the jigsaw problems that we face," Tony Hallett, the RFU secretary, said with reference to the dispute between his union and England's leading clubs, whose players boycotted an international training session on Wednesday. "It is a major achievement by the negotiators. It is a weight off our shoulders and a help that we are not fighting battles on so many fronts."

The boycott, by 42 members of England's 43-strong training squad, affected preparations for the pre-Christmas internationals against Italy, the New Zealand Barbarians and Argentina. The players responded to appeals for support from their employers, the 24 top clubs who make up the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs, the exception being the uncapped Coventry prop, Rob Hardwick, who

declared himself entitled to make up his own mind on the issue.

The sport in Britain was, and remains, largely unprepared for the advent just over a year ago of professionalism. In the wake of the game going open, the Rugby Football Union (RFU), governing body for rugby in England, negotiated a five-year agreement worth £87.5m with BSkyB, the satellite broadcasting company which is part-owned by News International, owners of The Times.



"It's called rugby — all you need is lawyers and accountants and TV rights"

## Major called as witness in libel case

By ALICE THOMSON AND FRANCES GIBB

JOHN MAJOR and Michael Heseltine have been asked to appear as witnesses in a £1 million libel case starting on the eve of the Conservative Party conference next month.



Hamilton: suing over "media witchhunt"

They have been subpoenaed by The Guardian newspaper, along with the Cabinet Secretary Sir Robin Butler and the former Chief Whip Richard Ryder, to give evidence in a case being brought by Neil Hamilton, the Conservative MP for Tatton.

If he attended, Mr Major would be the first Prime Minister to be required to give evidence in court — although his lawyers may contest the subpoena on the ground that ministers cannot be compelled to answer questions bearing on parliamentary proceedings.

Even so, the timing of the case is likely to be a severe embarrassment to the Conservatives, who had hoped that their Bournemouth conference would be a perfect launchpad for a spring general election campaign. Instead, Labour could be handed a propaganda gift with the accusations of sleaze that are bound to be made during a High Court hearing that is expected to last a month.

Mr Hamilton is suing The Guardian over allegations that he was paid by the Harrods owner Mohammed al Fayed to ask parliamentary questions. He was forced to resign as trade minister over the issue in 1994 and he left office protesting that he was a victim of "foully motivated rumour and a media witchhunt".

Mr Hamilton and the former Ulster minister Tim Smith asked 22 questions between them about Mr al Fayed's battle with Tiny Rowland of Lomax. Mr Smith also resigned in the wake of The Guardian's allegations and has since kept a low profile, making it clear that he does not intend to sue.

Mr Hamilton made no comment yesterday, other than to say it was rubbish that he was being financed by wealthy supporters. However, friends said that the only reason The Guardian wanted to call the Prime Minister was to embarrass the whole Government in the affair.

The Tory hierarchy has been trying for months to persuade Mr Hamilton to settle out of court, but his friends said: "He hasn't overthrown 300 years of constitutional history to chicken out now."

Mr Hamilton sought to change the law after difficulties relating to parliamentary privilege led to the case being delayed last summer. He argued that rules laid down in the 300-year-old Bill of Rights prevented him giving evidence on statement he had made in the Commons, and claimed that he could clear his name and resurrect his career only if he were allowed to waive his privilege.

He took his campaign to Parliament, which backed him by passing an amendment to the Defamation Act to allow MPs to waive their privilege. That took effect yesterday.

Now The Guardian's subpoenas are certain to prompt further wrangling over the powers of Parliament and the courts. If the ministers argue that they cannot be forced to answer questions about parliamentary proceedings, the newspaper's lawyers are likely to counter that their evidence would not relate directly to such proceedings.

But even if such an argument succeeded and the ministers appeared in court, they might then decline to answer specific questions by claiming parliamentary privilege.

There is also a problem over timing: the court could not compel MPs to appear while Parliament was sitting, even when attendance would impinge on parliamentary business — which could be taken to include constituency business.

If, on the other hand, the ministers succeeded in setting aside the subpoenas, The Guardian might then return to court to argue that it could not obtain a fair trial and that proceedings — which are expected to cost more than £1 million — should be stopped.

The pidcock, glowing



President Yeltsin, looking sickly, sips tea during the televised interview yesterday

## Yeltsin admits to Russia he needs a heart operation

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin announced yesterday that he would undergo a heart operation later this month to treat an affliction that has dogged his presidency for more than a year and left in doubt his ability to rule Russia.

Yeltsin looked puffy-faced and sickly. He spoke slowly and at times seemed to lose track of what he was trying to say.

In a startling announcement, the first of its kind in Russian history by a head of state, the Kremlin leader said in a television interview that he had decided to opt for the operation after doctors had diagnosed heart disease and offered him the choice of treatment or bypass surgery.

The impression left by the interview is bound to renew fears that the Kremlin leader, re-elected to office in July, will not be able to serve out his four-year term. There are already distinct signs of a power vacuum at the top of Russian politics and the prospect of his further absence from office could ignite a leadership struggle.

"I want to have a society based on truth here, that means no longer hiding what we used to hide," said the Russian leader, referring to his decision to go public about his illness and the operation.

But the Kremlin leader was forced to break with the tradition of secrecy around the health of the head of state in an effort to silence growing speculation about his illness and rumours that he was physically unfit to rule.

"I have undergone routine checks and during these checks they have found something wrong with my heart. Recommendations of doctors, our doctors, were for an operation or to work in a passive way," he said. "I do not want to go anywhere abroad. Our Moscow Cardiological Centre is capable of performing such operations."

President Yeltsin suffered two heart seizures last year, but managed to recover to fight an energetic election campaign earlier this year. However, he has practically disappeared from public since July. He did emerge briefly for his inauguration ceremony last month, but otherwise has been seen in carefully edited television shots only.

During the interview, conducted at a presidential dacha north of Moscow, President

Kremlin struggle, page 12  
Dr Stottford, page 12  
Leading article, page 19

### £114m Morgan holdings sold

Holdings worth £114 million were sold by private investors when dealings in the three Morgan Grenfell unit trusts being investigated by Imro restarted. The price of the funds fell about 3.5 per cent. In the previous six months, they had fallen by 14 per cent. Morgan Grenfell held out no promise of compensation for investors. **Page 23**

### Turkey attacks rebel Kurds in safe area

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

TURKISH warplanes attacked suspected bases of rebel Turkish Kurds inside the Kurdish safe area of northern Iraq last night. Farther south, near Arbil, renewed fighting erupted between rival Iraqi Kurdish factions.

Turkey described the air raids as a limited operation but they were seen as a prelude to a cross-border ground offensive. The raids followed an announcement from Ankara that it would carve out a buffer zone up to six miles deep and 200 miles long inside northern Iraq to guard against attacks by some 3,000 fighters of the Kurdistan Workers' Party, the PKK.

Turkey insisted that it has no designs on Iraqi territory and said it had notified its Western allies about the plan. But there will be concern that any incursion by Turkey, a Nato member and key American ally, could embolden Iraq and Iran to send forces into northern Iraq in pursuit of their own interests. "They will cry double standards if Washington turns a blind eye to a Turkish offensive," said a European envoy in Tehran.

The hardline PKK has used bases inside northern Iraq for strikes into Turkey as part of its bloody 12-year campaign for an independent homeland. Turkey fears it has been strengthened by the turmoil which erupted at the weekend.

Allies split, page 7

### Child sex inquiry

Police have asked 400 former residents of a children's home in Cardiff to telephone them urgently on a confidential line, as they begin investigating alleged sexual and physical abuse there. A team of ten male and female detectives will be answering the calls in an attempt to crack a suspected ring of child molesters in South Wales. **Page 5**

## Researchers may have to shell out for piddock project

By NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

A RESEARCH project to find ways to raise luminous creatures in captivity has come to a standstill because the scientists paid themselves no salaries. Dr Robert and Dr Jan Knight, of Knight Scientific in Plymouth, were given £500,000 by the Department of Trade and Industry to raise the piddock, a creature rather like a mussel which lives in holes along the sea-shore.

enable its luminous material, pholasin, to be used in medical experiments.



The piddock: glowing

Dr Robert Knight is a retired teacher, so the couple were able to live on his pensions. To speed the project, they left money notionally paid by the DTI as salary in the company — with the department's agreement, they say.

The research was on the verge of completion when the department said that not paying themselves a salary was against the rules. It has refused to pay the last part of the agreed grant, and has threatened to sue.

the end of us. We might have to sell our house."

The DTI would not comment.

Pholasin is sensitive to the state of the white cells in the blood, and so might be used as a sensitive monitor of the development of an illness. When the white cells are activated to fight disease, they produce free radicals — highly reactive species — which make the pholasin glow.

miniscence, said: "The prospects of profits are very high indeed."

As the project proceeded, it received commendations for good management from the DTI office in Plymouth. A secondary benefit of the programme would have been to protect the piddock, whose proper name, *Pholus dactylus*, means "finger lurking in a hole". Once so plentiful that Pliny wrote in amazement of the glow left on the hands and mouths of people who ate it, it is now extinct in the Mediterranean and is very rare in Britain.



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## Labour attacked for 'irresponsible' proposal to cut basic tax rate to 10p in the pound

## Clarke boasts of families' £700 gain under Tories

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH CLARKE led the Tory assault on Labour's tax policy yesterday, claiming that the average family will be £700 a year better off by the general election.

The Chancellor prompted speculation of tax cuts in the Budget by giving an upbeat assessment of the economy. Meanwhile the Prime Minister sought to kill speculation of a snap election by insisting he would not go to the country until next year.

A buoyant Mr Clarke reiterated the Government's commitment to lowering the basic tax rate to 20p in the pound and derided Gordon Brown's proposal of a 10p rate as "irresponsible". But Mr

Clarke refused to rule out increases in indirect taxation, suggesting that he still has little room for manoeuvre.

Unveiling a new "demon eyes" poster on the theme of New Labour, New Taxes, with the eyes peeping out of a woman's purse, the Chancellor said: "As night follows day, the tax burden would rise if Britain ever elected a Labour government. Labour have got their eyes on the average family's £700 a year of extra spending money."

Mr Clarke and Brian Mawhinney, the Tory party chairman, argued that new Labour was more "cunning and sly" than its previous incarnation. The two men

made clear that Labour's tax plans would be made just as big an issue in the next election as in the last.

They highlighted hidden taxes such as the "tartan tax" in Scotland, the "teenage tax" — referring to Labour's review on child benefit for 16-19 year olds — the "windfall tax" on privatised utilities and the "private health tax" — Labour's plans to remove tax relief on private medical insurance for pensioners.

Mr Clarke said that Treasury figures showed that by next year the annual take-home pay of the average family would have risen £700 in real terms since just before the last general election.

Mr Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, retorted by saying that the Tories were still lying about Labour on tax. After unveiling Labour's own poster on the 22 new Tory taxes since 1992, he said: "Today Kenneth Clarke and John Major are themselves descending into the lies and smears that have characterised the Tory party chairman's summer campaign."

Mr Brown also seized on Mr Clarke's failure to rule out further increases in indirect taxation. "Once again, Mr Clarke has confirmed his addiction to VAT and his inten-



The eyes have it again: Brian Mawhinney and Kenneth Clarke present the latest poster in the Tory campaign

tion to put VAT on food, children's clothes and newspapers," he said.

At a news conference yesterday, Mr Clarke backed the principle of moving from direct to indirect taxation. But he fuelled speculation that the 20p band may be extended in the November Budget by arguing that getting a quarter of the population onto a 20p rate had helped to "dynamise" the British economy.

Insisting that the Tories

were now back to their tax-cutting agenda, he said: "I have made absolutely clear that the target is to deliver a starting rate of 20p. It is credible, within sight, and will be achieved as long as public finances allow it."

In response to Mr Clarke's claim that the average family had £700 more to spend this year than at the last election, Mr Brown said Treasury Chief Secretary William Waldegrave had stated that

living standards fell last year. Mr Brown said: "We know that people are paying £2,000 more in tax since 1992. We know they have suffered 22 tax rises, that VAT has been imposed on fuel, National Insurance has been raised, and mortgage tax relief cut, despite all the promises made in 1992 by the Conservatives that they would cut taxes year on year."

Mr Clarke infuriated Euro-sceptic Tories by sup-

porting a letter from businessmen warning John Major against yielding to pressure to rule out joining a single currency in the next Parliament.

Mr Clarke told BBC Radio 4's Today programme that he fully supported the letter, from the chairman and chief executives of 15 international companies with combined sales of £150 billion, which said a decision to stay outside monetary union would be "deeply damaging".

## Ethiopian wins right to challenge benefit curb

An Ethiopian woman won the right yesterday to attempt another challenge to the Government's curb on benefits for asylum seekers after claiming that she had been unlawfully barred from income support. The woman, known only as Ms T, claimed asylum in February, before the Asylum and Immigration Bill became law. She and the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants claimed that the Act could not be applied retrospectively. If she wins, 5,000 to 10,000 asylum applicants could be entitled to urgent payments while their applications are determined.

## Patient callers

Emergency telephone lines to provide advice to patients seeking immediate hospital care should be introduced to help to ease the pressure on casualty departments, the BMA said. The hotline, staffed by nurses, would advise patients whether they needed to come in, go to outpatients or to their GP.

## IRA appeal lost

The Federal Court of Justice in Germany upheld sentences of nine to 10½ years against three IRA terrorists, Pauline and Donagh O'Kane and Patrick Murray, for bombing a British army barracks at Osnabrück in 1989. They had been convicted of attempted murder and spying with intent to sabotage.

## Aid for girl

A 14-year-old from Teesside became the second schoolgirl to be granted legal aid to take her mother to court over her rights to see her brother and sister after leaving home to live with an aunt. On Wednesday the Teesside Family Panel dealt with a similar application from a 16-year-old girl from the same area.

## Object lessons

Schoolchildren are to be given lessons in the art of complaining in an effort to improve the standard of public services. Teaching material aimed at 16 to 17-year-olds is expected to be sent out to schools before the end of the year to be used in citizenship classes.

## Rights ruling

The Government was defeated in Europe yesterday when the European Commission on Human Rights ruled that it acted unfairly in reviewing life sentences. It ruled that the delay of 13 months in reviewing the case of a man jailed for murder had been a breach of his human rights.

## Partial eclipse

A partial eclipse of the sun next month will be visible across Britain. The eclipse is due to begin at 1.02 pm on October 12, with up to half of the sun cast in shadow by 2.18 pm. A total solar eclipse, visible from southern England, is scheduled for August 11, 1999.

## Medal for poet

The Queen's 1996 Gold Medal for Poetry has been awarded to Peter Redgrove. Mr Redgrove, 64, from Fulmouth, a prolific poet, novelist and playwright for BBC radio, was recommended for the medal by a committee headed by the Poet Laureate, Ted Hughes.

## Stalker freed

A stalker whose victim suffered from clinical depression after he slashed her tyres and sent her more than 800 letters has been freed on probation. Gaetano Constanza, 32, who became obsessed with Louise Wilson, 23, had served two years on remand.

## Skateboard ban

A winbar owner was found guilty of driving while disqualified after he was stopped riding a motorised skateboard to work. Robert Sawyer, 31, from Fulham, west London, rode a 160cc skateboard with a tiny 20cc petrol engine, which police class as a motor vehicle.



Gordon Brown and the new Labour poster that accuses the Tories of 22 tax rises since 1992

## Bombastic exchanges obscure truth about the public finances

## RIDDELL ON POLITICS

THE propaganda barrage between the parties on tax is vacuous, intellectually dishonest and no guide to what anyone will pay in tax after the election. Labour is trying to avoid losing the 1992 election again, while the Tories are ignoring the huge tax increases of 1993-95.

The Tories are repeating their "tax bombshell" campaign of 1992, alleging that Labour's spending plans imply big tax increases. Ever since Gordon Brown became Shadow Chancellor four years ago, his main aim has been to remove the party's high spending and tax image. In one sense, that has been achieved. The pre-manifesto turned

the screw on new spending commitments apart from ones financed by transfers from other programmes or from the windfall tax on the utilities. This has enabled Tony Blair to claim that there are no proposals that require rises in personal tax.

There is no Labour spending iceberg as in 1992. But there are several loose ends, like the utilities tax and the increasingly hypothetical question of a tax-raising Scottish parliament. Some of the Tory attempts to conjure up new Labour tax threats are far-fetched and others distort the meaning of tax. To describe Mr Brown's suggestion

about reallocating child benefit paid to some 16 to 18-year-olds as a "teenage tax" is a misuse of language. It would mean, for instance, that the Government's changes in invalidity benefit could be described as a disability tax.

Labour may, however, have made a tactical mistake by repeating its long-term aspiration of having a starting tax rate of 15, or preferably 10, per cent. Even though the cost would depend on the width of the starting band, this inevitably raises questions about when, how much

and how it might be financed. But it is rich even for the rumbustious Kenneth Clarke to boast about the average family having £700 each year more to spend on top of inflation after paying their taxes when the Tories believe it is individuals, and not governments, who create such increases in wealth. The Tories' main contribution to this rise was cutting interest rates from the levels to which they had previously had to be increased to curb inflation.

The real question is not whether Labour's plans are genuine but

whether they can be maintained. This is, in part, a commentary on the state of the public finances under the Tories. Labour's pre-manifesto involves no increase in spending above existing plans, but these already imply much slower rates of growth on, for example, health than in recent years. So standards of provision would fall unless big savings can be found from elsewhere. This is incredible given the instinctive desire of many Labour MPs to spend more.

Instead of trying to repeat the muddling of 1992, the parties need to explain whether their spending plans can be sustained without

higher taxes, especially since the big tax increases of 1993-95 failed to eliminate the core Budget deficit. Whichever party is in office will find it hard to hold the tax burden at the current level, let alone produce a big cut, unless draconian, and so far unrevealed, measures are taken to rein back the public sector. That is what the Tories should be addressing, as the Liberal Democrats have been arguing from the side of the battlefield. The state of the public finances will determine the prospects for taxes far more than the recent bombastic exchanges.

PETER RIDDELL

## Wheelchair levy barmy, says Tebbit

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

LORD Tebbit became an unlikely ally in Labour's campaign to remove VAT from wheelchairs and commodes yesterday.

The former Cabinet minister, whose wife was disabled in the Brighton bombing, attacked Customs and Excise for ordering the British Red Cross to charge 17½ per cent tax on hiring the items. Labour has seized on the decision as part of its new poster campaign using the slogan: "Same old Tories, same old lies: 22 new Tory taxes since 1992."

Many of the 70,000 people who hire equipment because of accidents or short-term illness, now have to pay an extra £1 a week for a wheelchair or 50p for a commode.

Lord Tebbit said: "It seems plain barmy to me. Here we are 23 years after VAT was imposed, and the Excise people are saying that the British Red Cross have had it wrong for 23 years. People don't hire wheelchairs or commodes for fun. I hope the Chancellor will tell them that they have got it wrong."

## Straw promises polls on 13 issues

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR leaders committed themselves yesterday to conducting up to 13 referendums within five years. The Labour leadership also made clear that the rolling programme of public votes on key issues will pave the way for more local, regional and national polls to gauge opinion.

Labour's decision to underline its commitment to referendums comes days after fierce Tory assaults on the party's plans to hold two polls in Scotland over the setting up of a Scottish Assembly.

John Major intensified the attacks on the Scottish referendum plans this week and Labour moved yesterday to kill off suggestions that the party might back away from staging plebiscites on wide-ranging issues.

Jack Straw, Shadow Home Secretary, said the moves to hold polls more frequently, together with a raft of other constitutional reforms, would "give people a say where one is denied today."

Senior Tories denounced as "muddled and ill thought-out" a wide-ranging package of

reforms that includes plans to strip hereditary peers of their power to vote in the House of Lords. Controversial plans to hold twin Scottish referendums on devolution and tax-raising powers for an assembly will mark only the start of a hectic referendum programme in Labour's first term of office.

The party confirmed that a further poll could be held for a devolved assembly in Wales, an elected body in London, proportional representation, a single currency in Europe, and whether to set up elected regional assemblies in seven English regions.

The plans to hold frequent referendums on the setting up of new assemblies are seen by Labour leaders as the key to increasing public confidence on central and local government. Mr Straw said: "We want to ensure that when these institutions are established they really have the consent of the people they are representing."

The Labour Party said that no voter was likely to take part in more than four polls.

## Cook and Archer canvass expatriate vote in Israel

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ROBIN COOK, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, and Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, former deputy chairman of the Conservative Party, have been touring Israel in a battle to win over the estimated 35,000 people living there who remain eligible to vote in Britain.

"Anyone who has lived abroad for less than 20 years and remained on the electoral register can now vote by proxy," said Yigal Levine, managing director of the British Immigrants Association in Tel Aviv. "That is why we are suddenly receiving visits from politicians of this stature. It is nice to feel important. It is nice to be wooed."

Before Lord Archer arrived for a tour this week that has

included public meetings in Jerusalem, Netanya and Ramat Gan, as well as a speech to the Israel, Britain and the Commonwealth Association in Tel Aviv, Stuart Polak, director of the Conservative Friends of Israel explained: "Everyone is of the belief that the significant number of British voters in Israel is important."

Not to be outdone, Labour dispatched Mr Cook for a tour ending today which included talks with Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, Yassir Arafat, the President of the Palestinian Authority, and other senior figures, as well as a crowded meeting for potential expatriate voters at Labour Party headquarters in Tel Aviv. His visit is to be followed by a

letter from Tony Blair to every Israel-based British citizen urging them to vote Labour.

"I only bumped into Lord Archer once — as I was going into see Mr Netanyahu and he was coming out, having only seen one of his aides," Mr Cook said. "I rather relished that."

In Britain, Labour is developing a project, under Derek Fatchett, Labour's chief Middle East spokesman, and Andrew Hood, a senior aide to Mr Cook, to "build bridges" between the party and the Jewish community. According to the Jewish Chronicle: "The moves reflect a growing realisation that, while small in number, Jewish voters are significantly represented in key marginal seats."

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## Nobleman was buried with Roman board game designed to last an eternity

## Opening gambit took 2,000 years to emerge

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A MYSTERIOUS board game that kept the Romans amused down the centuries has been found laid out and ready to play in a 2,000-year-old burial site in Essex.

The find is remarkable because, although there is plenty of evidence of Roman games using boards and pieces, a complete game with the pieces set out has never before been found.

It also gives the strongest clues yet about how to play one of the most popular Roman games, whose rules were never committed to

paper. "It is an immensely exciting discovery," said Philip Crummy, of the Colchester Archaeological Trust, who is directing the dig at Stanway, where the ancient British nobility were buried.

"It is the first time that a game like this has been found virtually intact, and with all the pieces in place, just as they would have been in around the year AD 50. What makes it so special is that we have found the outline of the board as well. The original wood has rotted away and crumbled to dust but the edges, which were

made of metal, are still there. We know that the Romans mainly played two types of games: one was a form of ludo, with a dice, and the other was like chess or draughts." The Stanway find is thought to be the latter, and maybe a version of Latrunculi, or little soldiers.

The game was buried alongside the bones of its owner, apparently to provide entertainment in the afterlife. It consisted of a hinged wooden chequerboard and 20 pieces, about the size of large chocolate drops. Ten were made of

blue glass and ten of white. The first move had already been made. Last night Mr Crummy confirmed that another piece had been found, suggesting that there were 24 pieces in all.

"What is a wee bit spooky is that all the pieces are set out as if the game were about to start," he said. "They are lined up along each side of the board, with one blue and one white piece advanced."

He said that finding the twenty-first piece was "a bit of a blow at first, but it will be good if we find the rest of the pieces. A total of 24 pieces would fit the pattern of other games that have been found previously."

The board itself, probably made of maple, has long since disappeared, but metal corners and a hinge in the centre have survived, enabling its size and shape to be worked out. The board was 55 centimetres by 40 (21in by 15in) and the pieces are lined up along the longer sides.

The game is of Roman origin, though the burial site is that of a prominent British aristocrat of the period just before the Roman conquest under Claudius in AD 43. Romans had already been in Britain for almost a century, so it is no surprise to find native Britons playing Roman games.

Dr Irving Finkel, of the British Museum, says that, from descriptions of what Mr Crummy has found, he believes the game to be a version of Latrunculi, a game of strategy played on boards of various sizes. "We have found boards scratched on rocks and drawn on vases," he said. "The Romans never wrote down the rules. They didn't need to; everybody knew them."

"The important thing with this find is that the board and the men have turned up together. I don't think there is another example like that anywhere in the world. It's a very important find."

He said that the object of Latrunculi appeared to have been to trap one of your opponent's pieces between two

other pieces by leaping over them. It is clearly the ancestor of draughts.

The game is still played in Madagascar, under the name Fanorona. Keene said that the description was closer to this than to Latrunculi, in which he said there were different numbers of pieces on each side, and not all were of equal weight. "The point is that in Fanorona both players start in a position of absolute equality, which is what we see here. I am pretty sure that is what they have found."



Lisa Hepi, an archaeology student, working on the discovery at Stanway, Essex. Twenty of the glass pieces were in place, with the first move already made

of yours, thus taking it. The player left with the final piece was the winner. It was undoubtedly a game of strategy, though much simpler than chess. There was some evidence that part of the board was regarded as a citadel to be taken by the opponent.

"Games travel with soldiers," Dr Finkel said. "They leap across borders. I suspect there were many local versions of this game, but how it

was played we just don't know."

Only a fluke enabled the game to survive with its pieces barely moved from their original position. Mr Crummy said. It had been set up in a shallow box before being buried with the bones and personal possessions of a wealthy and prominent person.

"First we uncovered the whole row of the blue pieces," Mr Crummy said. "We said

"Wouldn't it be great if the white pieces were there as well?" and then, like magic, they appeared."

The site is a quarry owned by Tarmac, which has supported the excavation. Ian Findlater, regional director of Tarmac Quarry Products, said: "We had hoped that the excavations would be successful, but we are amazed at what Philip Crummy and his team have discovered."

## Midair lightning ordeal on jumbo flight

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

SEVERAL Britons were hurt yesterday when an Air France jumbo was struck by lightning over western Africa. Thirty people were injured when the plane, carrying 203 passengers and 18 crew, encountered severe turbulence over Burkina Faso.

Newlyweds Colin and Anne-Marie Conyngham were returning from their honeymoon in Durban. Mrs Conyngham, 25, was hurt when she fell back to the floor of the cabin. Describing her experience yesterday in the arrivals hall at Dublin Airport, she said: "There was only time for a brief warning from an air hostess, speaking in French, and telling us to get our seatbelts locked."

"I didn't have time to do this, and the next thing I knew, I was flying through the air and suddenly came back to the ground with a heavy thud. Then I started saying as many decades of the Rosary as I could remember, while people around about me were being thrown around in the storm."

"It was very frightening. Some people were very badly injured. I wouldn't like to go through that again."

The strike was so violent that it displaced television monitors, opened luggage lockers and sent baggage hurtling around the cabin. The aircraft was forced to make an emergency landing at Marseilles.

"I saw a steward thrown through the air like Batman, which is a surprise when you are half asleep," one passenger said. "He threw me into a seat, and attached the seatbelt and then I saw him fly off, disappearing through the ceiling."

The steward said he was thrown on top of the galley and suffered a broken collar bone. "I have never seen this in 17 years of flying," he said. An elderly French couple were lifted out of their seats and crashed through the false ceiling of the cabin. Robert Schermer, 74, was in a coma yesterday. His wife, Violette, 71, suffered serious head wounds.



Dr Irving Finkel believes that the game was a variant of Latrunculi, or little soldiers, a popular Roman pastime depicted on a vase in the British Museum

## Ancient Egyptians and the Moors may have played too

By NIGEL HAWKES

HOW did the ancient Britons play the game? Ray Keene, chess correspondent of *The Times*, believes that he knows. From descriptions of the positions in which the pieces were found, he believes that it is a version of an ancient game called *Alquerque*, once played by the ancient Egyptians and described in a Moorish manuscript of the 13th century.

"This game was the parent of draughts," he said. "The

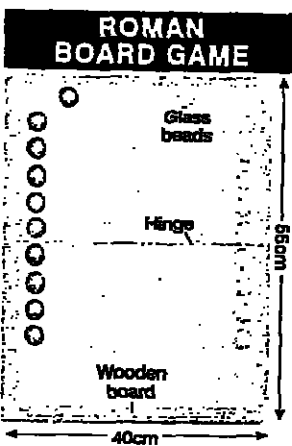
Arab name for it was *Qirkat*, which some people think was the origin of the word *chess*."

*Alquerque* is a game of strategy and tactics in which both players have an equal number of pieces at the start. Typically this is 12 on either side.

"The pieces are laid out side by side, on the lines rather than the squares," Keene said. "There would also have been diagonal lines, and the pieces can be moved either diagonally or in a straight line. They capture

other pieces by leaping over them. It is clearly the ancestor of draughts."

The game is still played in Madagascar, under the name *Fanorona*. Keene said that the description was closer to this than to *Latrunculi*, in which he said there were different numbers of pieces on each side, and not all were of equal weight. "The point is that in *Alquerque* both players start in a position of absolute equality, which is what we see here. I am pretty sure that is what they have found."



## Pots and pans chief broke UN sanctions

By RUSSELL JENKINS

A COMPANY director was fined £10,000 yesterday for his part in an elaborate sanctions-busting trade to import cheap enamel pots and pans from Serbia into British stores.

Ramseh Khemlani, 39, managing director of a kitchenware company, admitted conspiring to import goods contrary to United Nations sanctions. His company, Corrina Housewares, of north Manchester, was fined £25,000 plus £30,000 costs. Much of the cookware is sold in big chainstores such as Argos and Woolworth's under trade names such as Wild Tulip and Camelia.

More than £1 million worth of pots and pans were smuggled into Britain between July 1992 and July 1994 along a complicated route designed to throw Customs and Excise off the scent. Maidstone Crown Court was told.

Khemlani, of Bowdon, Cheshire, was given 60 days to pay, with six months' jail imposed in default.

## Robber's number is up after taking a shine to hostage

By LYN JENKINS

A TEENAGE girl held hostage with her family for four hours by a masked gang secretly dated one of the robbers for three weeks before telling police.

Charlotte Lovell, 16, caught the eye of Wayne Girvan as he kept her captive in the kitchen of her home while other members of the gang demanded the cash takings from the bookmakers where her foster-brother was manager. Girvan scribbled his mobile phone number on a piece of paper and added the symbol \$ to denote his nickname, Dollar.

Girvan, 19, apologised to the family as the gang left and offered to repair the telephone wires that had been ripped out. Michael Greaves, for the prosecution, told Northampton Crown Court: "It appears he had taken a bit of a shine to her." He said that Charlotte "rather unwisely" went out with Girvan several times before she told police.

The raid, on the day of the Grand National, happened after Jason Minney, 29, was

followed home after leaving Tote Bookmakers in Northampton, where he was manager. They burst in armed with a pistol, knife and cash and held Mr Minney, his mother, Jo, 56, and her foster-daughter, Charlotte, hostage.

One of the gang demanded the combination of the safe in the shop. He pressed the gun against Mr Minney's head and said: "We have been following you. We have had a tip-off there is £35,000 in the safe." They took him to the betting shop, taking a taxi after their car broke down, and escaped with £5,000.

Girvan, from Overstone, Northampton, admitted robbery and false imprisonment. John Price, QC, the Recorder, jailed him for six years on the first charge and three years on the second, to run concurrently.

Geraldine Chapman, for the defence, said Girvan had been "roped in" hours before the robbery by the two older members of the gang, who were still at large.

## Licence to broadcast for Oxford graduates

By CAROL MIDDLEY

TWO Oxford University graduates celebrated yesterday after being awarded Britain's first full broadcasting licence for a student radio station.

Philip Weiss, 24, and Nick Molden, 22, who operate from offices opposite their old college, Christ Church, proved to the Radio Authority over a 28-day trial period that their station was viable and innovative. Michael Heseltine, Tony Benn, Esther Rantzen and Ian Hislop have been interviewed on Oxygen FM, which features debate and music.

Oxygen FM's broadcasting team said 40 per cent of Oxford's 60,000 students tuned in to the station. It has promised to give airtime to student bands and to help to break new talent. Mr Weiss, who gained his politics, philosophy and economics degree last year, said: "We hope to set the standard for a new generation of student FM listeners in Britain and across Europe." Oxygen FM will have five staff and operate 24 hours a day.



Bill and Ben Wright and the *Watch with Mother* characters inspired by their childhood pranks



## Royal Mail unmoved by Bill and Ben's appeal

THE writer who created Bill and Ben the Flowerpot Men had a dig at the Royal Mail yesterday for overlooking her characters in a series of stamps commemorating children's television.

Hilda Brabham, 82, modelled the mischievous pair on her brothers Bill and Ben Wright and their childhood

Sooty instead. "It's disgraceful," he said. "Bill and Ben is the most famous and popular children's programme ever."

The Flowerpot stories, broadcast once a week in the BBC's *Watch with Mother* slot, began in the 1950s. In Castleford, Yorkshire, where the Wright brothers ran a greengrocer's shop, it was well

living in Lewes, East Sussex, described the Royal Mail's decision as terrible. She said: "Not only are the stories famous throughout Yorkshire, but also worldwide."

The Royal Mail said that the stamps, which also feature Muffin the Mule, the Clangers, Stingray and Dangermouse.

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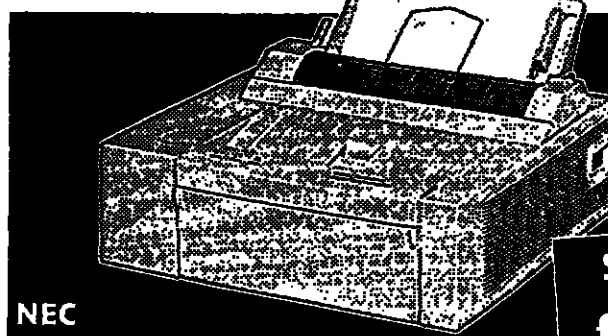
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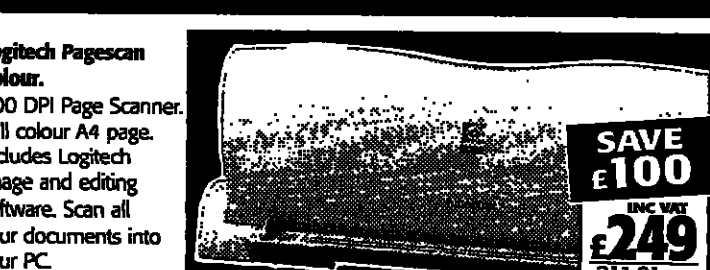
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Diploma  
over page

Digital  
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Cleric loses  
in women priest



# Diplomat faces prison over paedophile videos

By STEPHEN FARRELL

A SENIOR British diplomat who smuggled paedophile videos into the country was in jail last night, facing a sentence of up to seven years. Robert Coghlan, 54, will be sentenced today after a jury at Southwark Crown Court found him guilty of importing 104 obscene tapes, 70 containing child pornography, in March this year.

Customs investigators said he was part of a secret international paedophile network. They described the videos as among the worst they had seen. Coghlan showed no emotion when the seven men and five women took less than an hour to reach a verdict after a three-day trial.

After the case James McGregor, deputy chief investigation officer for HM Customs, said there was little doubt that Coghlan belonged to a paedophile ring. "It is a secretive network in which people work by making, exchanging and selling this sort of material. I have no reason to suppose that Coghlan was any different."

Coghlan, a fluent linguist

An American who filmed young girls as they played, sometimes in the nude, on British holiday beaches was jailed yesterday for four months and recommended for deportation. Magistrates at Bournemouth were told that Charles Morgan, 44, a postman from California, had concentrated on filming their genital areas. Morgan had gone straight to Bournemouth after arriving in this country on August 1, then travelled to St Ives, Cornwall, and had returned to Bournemouth. He admitted three charges of taking indecent pictures of a child and said he got sexual excitement from that type of footage.

With 33 years in the Diplomatic Service, accompanied Diana, Princess of Wales on her visit to Japan in February last year. He has been suspended on normal pay since his arrest and last night the Foreign and Commonwealth Office said it would decide on disciplinary action after sentencing.

He was arrested on March 26 at a friend's house in Islington, north London, after Customs officers made a routine search of a warehouse in Barking, east London. Events began in August last year when Coghlan learnt he was to be posted to Spain. As his belongings were packed by a shipping agency in Yokohama, Japan, he went on a tour of the Far East and Australia,

including two trips to Bangkok. He then returned to London.

The goods were sent to Southampton to go into storage in Barking before being sent on to Madrid. Coghlan signed a Customs and Excise form saying he had no prohibited goods to declare.

He denied being a paedophile and pleaded not guilty to a charge of fraudulent evasion of the prohibition on importing obscene material under the 1979 Customs and Excise Management Act. When interviewed, he admitted knowing the tapes were indecent but claimed he did not know they contained paedophile material and insisted that he always fast-

forwarded past scenes involving juveniles.

He told the jury that he considered disposing of the tapes but feared he was being followed by Japanese police whenever he left the embassy. He never thought to erase the tapes.

The prosecution dismissed his claim not to have known what he was buying, pointing out that he was a trained linguist who spoke Japanese, French, German, Portuguese and Serbo-Croat.

Nigel Latham, for the prosecution, said Coghlan spent four years painstakingly building up his collection at the expense of young children exploited and abused by the film-makers. "In Japan it would seem that Coghlan had something of a dual existence. He was something of a Jekyll and Hyde character."

Coghlan, who was born in Aberdeen, started work in the Passport Office and married his wife, Maureen, in 1963 when both were Foreign Office clerical workers. They divorced 20 years ago. His sons, Andrew and Steven, accompanied him to court, but made no comment afterwards.



Coghlan, who faces up to seven years in prison, arriving at Southwark Crown Court yesterday

## Hotline opened for ex-residents of children's home

By DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

POLICE have asked 400 former residents of a children's home in Cardiff to telephone them urgently on a confidential line as they begin a major investigation into alleged sexual and physical abuse.

A team of ten detectives, male and female, would be answering the calls in an attempt to crack a suspected ring of child molesters in South Wales, it was announced yesterday. The move follows the jailing for five years of a former social worker at the home who sexually abused three boys aged 12, 15 and 16.

The Cardiff investigation follows separate evidence of 20 years of abuse in North Wales.

The new inquiry concerns Taff Vale Children's Home in Cardiff, run by South Glamorgan County Council, which has since been abolished under local government changes. The residential home, in the suburb of Whitchurch, was closed because of reorganisation in 1991. It looked after mainly local boys and girls aged from

ten to 16, although some came from further afield.

Two staff in Cardiff's social services department mentioned their suspicions of possible abuse to their director earlier this year. A preliminary investigation by the council raised serious concerns, which were reported to South Wales Police.

The police want to interview all those who were resident between 1985 and 1991, who will now be aged 16 to 27, and the 100 people who worked there at that time.

A former social worker at the home, Geoffrey Morris, was jailed for five years by Cardiff Crown Court this week for indecently assaulting three boys in his care, none of whom was from Taff Vale.

Detective Chief Superintendent Phil Jones said he realised the inquiry could be traumatic for the young people involved, "but I am appealing to them: please, take the opportunity to contact us."

The number to phone is 01222-571535.

## Digital hymnals take the place of vanishing church organists

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

AFTER the electronic organ, churches are now queuing to buy the religious equivalent of karaoke machines.

The desk-top "digital hymnals" can play the accompaniment to 3,000 hymns and songs with 128 different instruments. Their repertoire includes music for baptisms, marriages and funerals. The machines are operated by a touch-button keypad and plug directly into a church or chapel's audio system.

The high-tech hymnals are being bought by dozens of churches and chapels because of a national shortage of organists. Not only do the machines ease that shortage but their flexibility means that vicars can install them and avoid disputes with their organists about what music should be played.

About 50 of the 1999 machines have sold since a south London company began importing them from America a few months ago. Martin Phelps, director of Digital Hymnals UK of Croydon, said: "We have sold them to hospitals, crematoria, tiny churches, big churches. They exist because churches cannot get organists."

According to members of Holy Trinity Church, Eberme, West Sussex, which has been without an organist for three years, the high-tech hymnal is "absolutely marvellous". The Rector, the Rev Gerald Kirkham, is testing the machine and if it proves a success will make it a permanent feature of the 19th-century Anglican church.

Tony Colpoys, churchwarden, said: "Like many small parishes our church has great difficulty in providing regular organ accompaniment. Even when they are available, organists want £30 a time, which is difficult for

us to afford with only 15 people coming along on Sundays. That means we can't have music on a regular basis."

In an attempt to break the silence Mr Colpoys visited the Christian Resources Exhibition at Sandown Racecourse in May, where he came across the DH100 Digital Hymnal. He said: "You don't need any cassettes and to get it to play a hymn you tap in the relevant number, which comes in a book, and off it goes. If you heard it you would think it was a pipe organ. We are only a very small village of some 20 houses. It's the sort of place you'd drive through and not notice."

"We have got one or two people here with not bad voices and we always put on a very, very good festival of carols every Christmas. I'm hoping that many parishioners will come along and have a listen to the new hymnal and I can't see many people having a problem with it. It is a question of that or no music."

He said that if the parish decided to install the digital hymnal permanently, the church would retain its traditional organ, which would be available for anyone who was able to play it.

Michael Nicholas, chief executive of the Royal College of Organists, does not consider the new machines to be a threat to the livelihoods of the country's organists. "The strength of pipe organs and expert organ playing is such that that will always be valued for its own sake," he says. "We do realise that in some places there is a shortage of organists and we are doing our best by various means to try to encourage more people to play the instrument."

## Cleric loses fight on women priests

By RUTH GLEDHILL

A CLERGYMAN who has fought a two-year legal battle to reverse the decision to ordain women priests was warned yesterday to drop his "hopeless" cause or face legal action himself. The Rev Paul Williamson, priest-in-charge of St George's, Hanworth, west London, was told in the Court of Appeal that his case was "untenable, unarguable, unsustainable."

Mr Williamson argued that the Queen was unlawfully led into breaking her Coronation Oath by agreeing to the Church's "theological heresy" of ordaining women priests in pursuit of "political correctness."

He said: "Your lordships face today the choice of regarding the oath as a decorative piece of medievalism or accepting what I say." He said the Church had used a "wretched, piffing" canon to engineer the introduction of

ment of Parliament. He claimed it was legally impossible for the Queen to agree to any measure that breached her oath to "preserve inviolably" church doctrine.

Mr Williamson was seeking a ruling that any legislation concerning the Church which is a breach of the oath, was both null and void.

But Lord Justice Simon Brown, sitting in the Court of Appeal with Lords Justice Morritt and Phillips, unanimously agreed that his arguments were "hopeless" and should be abandoned. Lord Justice Brown said: "His submissions to this court were full of legal heresies."

Afterwards, an unrepentant Mr Williamson said he had lost faith in British justice. He said: "I shall not take the slightest bit of notice. I am here for Christ, not their silly wintings." He would go to the House of Lords and

The BUREAUCRAT  
and his affair  
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...has enjoyed a shape and skin...  
...amusement from Hollywood...  
...For Brussels have suggested that...  
...this cucumber companion it's time the banana...  
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Tories 'adopting once-derided ILEA practices'

# Schools will be told to target failing black pupils

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

BLACK pupils are to be monitored from the ages of five to 16 under a ten-point plan to combat their declining performance at school.

Ministers acted yesterday after school inspectors gave warning that a growing number of pupils of Afro-Caribbean origin, boys in particular, were falling further behind other ethnic groups. Ofsted, the schools inspection agency, said that schools attempting to create a level playing field for all pupils with "colour-blind" policies were not doing enough to encourage black children. Children of Indian origin were performing much better at school than was the case ten years ago, often better than white children of the same age, Ofsted said.

Cheryl Gillan, an Education Minister, said the findings were a cause for concern. "The Government takes it very seriously and is determined to tackle it. We owe all our children, whatever their back-

ground, the best possible start in life."

Ofsted will be asked to draw up a specific action plan to improve the performance of black pupils. School inspections will have an added focus on racial harassment and stereotyping after evidence in yesterday's report of continuing conflict between white teachers and boys of Afro-Caribbean origin. Statistics are already collected on the ethnic composition of each school but the Government will consult on extra ways of monitoring the progress of ethnic minority pupils.

Mrs Gillan said she was considering how to cut the high rate of expulsions of black pupils, six times that of white pupils. Changes to teacher training were being considered, so that the mainly white trainees were better prepared for the multicultural classroom. A task force is being set up with the Commission for Racial Equality. Chris



Gillan: promised that Government would act

Myant, of the commission, said the Government's action was overdue but welcome.

"There is an enormous waste of talent involved here and the possible generation of a number of deep social problems. So we need to get this ball rolling," he said. "Tens of thousands of pupils come out of school not having achieved

in the way they could do if things were done differently. No one is suggesting this is because one group of pupils are inherently stupid. What is being achieved by the best can be achieved by everybody. We have now got to find out how to bring this about."

The National Union of Teachers said: "The Government is adopting policies which it once derided as loony left. It abolished the local authority which most put them into practice — the Inner London Education Authority — without ensuring that the good practices from ILEA were carried on."

Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, said: "Schools can and do make a difference. But it would be blinkered to pretend that family background and social class and ethnic origin are not also important."

This view was echoed by Carlton Duncan, the head teacher of George Dixon School in Birmingham, who is black. He said the ten-point plan took up recommendations made 11 years ago by the Swann report, the last major review of the school performance of children from ethnic minorities.

Mr Duncan, a member of the Swann committee, said: "An important factor is the absence of the extended family support which Afro-Caribbeans do not seem to enjoy. If schools and others were compensating for that absence we might be seeing a different story." One way of providing this support, more prevalent in the Asian community, was through a scheme of "mentors", whereby successful members of the black community acted as role models for disadvantaged pupils, he said. Harry Greenaway, a Conservative member of the Commons Education and Employment Select Committee and a former deputy head teacher, opposed the policy of focusing on black pupils. "I am not in favour of singling people out racially in education. I think children have got to be grouped on educational grounds by streaming or setting," he said.

Education, page 35

## White exodus leaves inner cities to ethnic minorities

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE white and ethnic minority populations moved apart throughout the 1980s as whites left the big cities for the suburbs, according to a government report published yesterday.

As the whites left and the birth rate among ethnic minorities rose the concentration of Asians and blacks living in the metropolitan districts grew. However, although this concentration is expected to increase in areas such as London, the west Midlands and west Yorkshire, the report says that Britain does not have American-style ghettos. Unlike the United States, there are no towns or cities in which non-whites form a majority.

The report, based on the 1991 census, found evidence that some Caribbeans and

Indians were also moving to the outer suburbs and shire counties, particularly around London. Although the numbers were small, Hertfordshire, West Sussex, Dorset, Berkshire, Surrey, Cheshire and North Yorkshire registered an increase in their ethnic-minority population.

The 1991 census, which asked people about their ethnic identity for the first time, found that Britain's population rose by 1.4 million in the ten years to 1991 and that two-thirds of the increase was among minority ethnic groups.

There was a 2 per cent drop in the number of whites living in metropolitan areas, compared with a 1.1 per cent increase for Afro-Caribbeans; 3.6 per cent for Africans; 1.8 per cent for Indians; 1.1 per cent for Pakistanis; 3 per cent for Bangladeshis and 3.6 per

cent for Chinese.

The London borough of Brent had the highest minority population at 44.8 per cent. Newham 42.3 per cent and Tower Hamlets 35.6 per cent. But the report said that in five wards the non-white community comprised more than 74 per cent of the overall population.

The report, *Ethnicity in the 1991 Census*, said that, despite fears that Britain would follow the American model of inner-city segregation, the figures offered a more optimistic conclusion. But Peter Ratcliffe, senior lecturer in sociology at Warwick University and one of the authors of the report, warned that the concentration could increase over the next decade. "The key question is whether people in these areas will have the wherewithal, economically and educationally, to get out."



Sweetener: Bill Waddington, who plays Percy Sugden, meets his chocolate self

## Sticky moments as the Street turns to chocolate

By CAROL MIDDLEY

EXECUTIVE smiles congealed as Bill Roache — Ken Barlow to the millions who watch Britain's longest-running soap — made the opening speech yesterday at the launch of Cadbury's sponsorship of *Coronation Street*. The deal, he said, would bring "a whole new meaning to the words Quality Street". Rowntree, maker of Quality Street, must have been delighted, but Cadbury could be justified in regarding the gaffe as something of a sticky

start to its £10 million association with the Rover's regulars.

Roache wasn't finished. He admitted that the cast had been initially wary of the deal, fearing it could lead to "product placement", restricted in this country but common in some American soaps. "Our concerns were about the American style," he said. "We thought we might suddenly have to break the story and hold up a chocolate bar. We have had chats with the management and our fears have been laid to rest. As long as the quality is not affected I hope and believe the public will accept."

From tomorrow, and before each episode for a year, viewers will see an animated sequence in which the cobbles and chimneys of television's most famous street turn to chocolate. Cadbury says the 12-month deal is the biggest British sponsorship package of its kind. It is certainly the first time in *Coronation Street*'s 35-year history that the pro-

gramme has been sponsored but yesterday both Cadbury and Granada insisted this would not affect the content or quality of the show.

Granada's managing director David Fraser said: "We don't want anything to happen that will change or cheapen the programme." A Cadbury spokesman said the company would not wish to spoil the integrity of the programme. There were no plans, for instance, to produce *Coronation Street* chocolate bars, despite the appearance at the press conference of a number of chocolate busts of leading characters.

Cadbury logos will appear at the start, during the commercial breaks and at the end of each show. From September 23, they will incorporate a promotion where viewers can win up to £25,000. Eight million prizes are on offer for viewers who can spot purple objects in a game at the end of each episode.

EastEnders is better, page 16

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Governor of suicide jail quits early

The governor of a prison where five women have committed suicide in 15 months is to retire early. The Scottish Prison Service denied that Robert Glen, 50, was leaving Cornton Vale prison, near Stirling, under a cloud, although the latest death there was on Tuesday when a 26-year-old inmate was found hanged in her cell. Officials said that he was leaving so that his successor could settle in as soon as possible.

### Bail for accused

Wayne Steven Paley, 23, accused of the manslaughter of Andrew Poynton, a student who was allegedly punched after going to the aid of a young woman, was freed on bail by Manchester magistrates until October 31.

### Aerosol death

A 14-year-old Darlington boy died after apparently inhaling the contents of his sister's aerosol deodorant. Carl Lee Cooper was heard crying for help in the early hours of yesterday but was dead on arrival at hospital.

### Parents sue store

The parents of a two-year-old boy who lost the tip of his finger in a door at a Sainsbury's store in Lincoln are to sue. A company spokesman said: "Our legal department has advised us that we are not liable for damages."

### Long crawl

A rare Death's Head hawk moth caterpillar, a native of Africa, was found in a field near Yeovil, Somerset. The 4in yellow caterpillar will live as a moth for about six weeks, feeding on potato leaves and hony.

### Staying safe

Staffordshire University at Stoke-on-Trent has appointed a safety officer to check gas fittings and wiring in student accommodation. Landlords who have been checked will be given safety certificates and put on an approved list.

### Sarah charge

A 33-year-old man is to appear in court at Melton, Leicestershire, today charged with the murder of Sarah Bottomley, 14, whose naked body was found in a cornfield near Edmondthorpe two weeks after she was last seen alive.

### Roo in a stew

Wild kangaroo steaks from the Australian Outback have gone on sale in 300 Tesco supermarkets. The meat, marketed as a healthy alternative to beef, has ten times less fat than a rump steak and is low in cholesterol.

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Chief Gcaleka

### Headhunter arrested for fraud

FROM INGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

CHIEF Nicholas Gcaleka, the South African traditional hunter who conducted a ridiculed hunt in Scotland for the skull of an ancestor, has been arrested on charges of fraud.

The chief was unable to raise bail of 3,000 rands (£430) and is being held in custody in Umlata, Transkei. The charges relate to cheques totalling 123,000 rands (£17,570) allegedly signed by Chief Gcaleka, whose real name is apparently Nicholas Mbatmbatho, when buying liquor and groceries from a Transkei store in 1991 and from the Gilbey's liquor company in 1992. According to police, Chief Gcaleka faces a third charge.

The chief's arrest comes days after scientists announced that DNA tests showed that the skull he took back from Scotland, claiming it to be a head of King Hintsa, killed by British soldiers in 1855, was in fact the skull of a white woman. The Xhosa royal house, embarrassed by his antics, has threatened to fine the chief several head of cattle by way of punishment.

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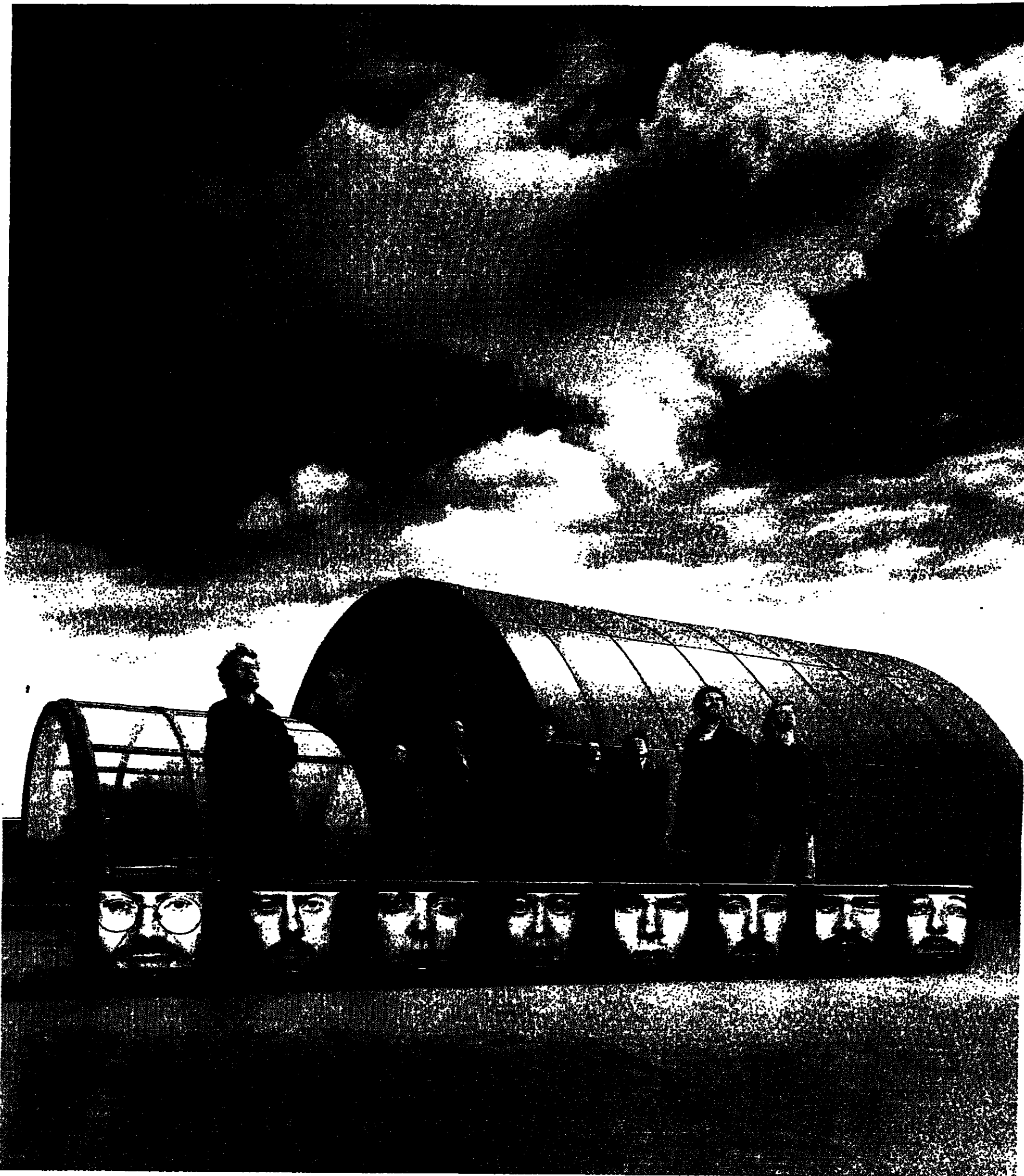


## APOLOGY.

Audi and their winning driver\*, Frank Biela, wish to apologise to all the other drivers for having to make them go through the motions in the last few races of the RAC Auto Trader British Touring Car Championships. Frank shall endeavour to make sure this doesn't happen again next year.



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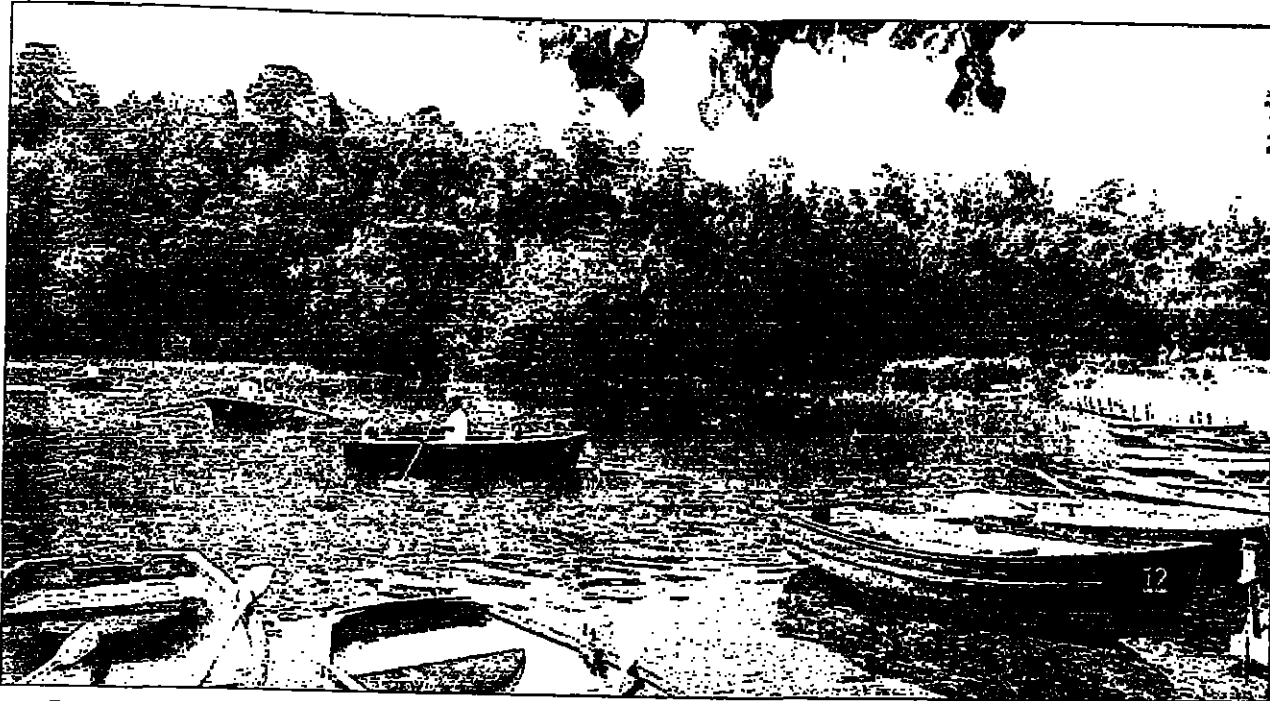
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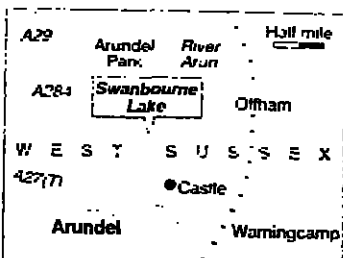
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Bottom line: Swanbourne Lake has supplied Arundel with water for centuries, but has now turned to mud, leaving André Buller's rowing-boat business high and dry. Water companies deny they are to blame

## Water firms accused as Arundel's ancient lake runs dry



By NICK NUTTALL

TWO water companies are to have their licences reviewed after an ancient lake in the Duke of Norfolk's Arundel estate ran dry. The companies have been accused of taking too much water from the lake, which is listed as a site of special scientific interest. They deny exceeding their quotas but

the licences are to be examined to see whether the approved level of abstraction is too high.

Swanbourne Lake, in West Sussex, has supplied Arundel with water for centuries. Over recent weeks it has turned to foul-smelling mud. Fish have died and most of the birdlife has left.

André Buller, whose family has let rowing boats on the former

mill pond since the 1850s, said that the Southern and Portsmouth water companies had been bleeding the underground springs dry. His claim follows a report by government wildlife advisers revealing that scores of wetland beauty spots suffer from over-abstraction.

Mr Buller, 79, said yesterday: "Even last summer, when there

were droughts everywhere, we still had enough water so people could row the boats on the lake." He blames the companies for the damage and an estimated loss of £5,000 after being forced to close during the school holidays.

Southern Water denied that it had caused damage to the lake, blaming last summer's drought and low rainfall this year. "It's

nothing to do with us," a spokesman said. "It is just that the water table which supplies the natural springs is at a record low level."

Simon Taylor, Sussex water resources manager at the Environment Agency, said the agency would hold talks with the companies and review their licences. He added that last year's drought and the dry winter had left the

chalk dry and that flows from springs had been intercepted by the water companies. "The pumping may be tipping the environmental balance."

Southern Water said: "We have a licence to draw water from boreholes around the lake, but the demand is not as great as we thought and we only take half of what we are entitled to."

### Husband kills wife and stabs his baby

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A MAN bludgeoned his estranged wife to death and stabbed their baby son in the stomach yesterday in an attack at her boyfriend's flat.

Toby Sumner, 26, then drove ten miles to the couple's matrimonial home in Aylsham, Norfolk, where he hanged himself. The 18-month-old baby, Jordan, is recovering in hospital after being found by Kerry Sumner's boyfriend, Trevor Toon.

Murder squad detectives said that they were not looking for anyone else in connection with the killing.

Mr Sumner, who was unemployed, attacked his wife and son at the flat in the seaside resort of Sheringham. Mrs Sumner, 23, had left him for Mr Toon, 25, in April. Mr Toon found her body when he came home from work in the early hours. The baby was taken to Norfolk and Norwich Hospital for emergency surgery. He was said last night to be in a stable condition.

Ella Howes, the postmistress at Aylsham, said that Mr Sumner had been a quiet man. "He was very upset when she left him. All I can think is that it all got too much for him and he just lost it."

### The office photocopier could pose health risk

By JEREMY LAURANCE

DOCTORS believe there may be a risk of lung disease from toner dust widely used in office photocopiers.

A 39-year-old man who developed a lung disease after working for 18 months in a news agency probably became ill as a result of contact with the dust, researchers report in *The Lancet*. The man, a non-smoker, developed a dry cough and breathlessness. Tests on samples taken from his lungs revealed particles containing amounts of copper and silicon identical to those found in toner dust.

The man, from Vienna, was treated with steroids but was no better after nine months. He was diagnosed with granulomatous pneumonitis, a lung disease caused by breathable metal particles.

The case is the second in which lung disease has been linked to photocopiers. Two years ago *The Lancet* reported on a 44-year-old Spanish woman who developed sidero-silicosis, in which the lungs get clogged with dust, working in a photocopying shop.

A spokesman for Canon Copiers UK said toner dust was safe when contained inside the photocopier.



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## America yawns as Oasis fail to behave badly

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

AMERICA responded with a large yawn yesterday to an attempt by Oasis to misbehave on stage at the MTV Video Music Awards in New York.

In an apparent grab for controversy — and a higher profile in the United States, where they have yet to repeat their British success — Oasis and their lead singer, Liam Gallagher, went for the bad-boy image with their performance on Wednesday night. The awards are the pop world's equivalent of the Oscars and the ceremony was being broadcast live around the world. Gallagher spat on stage, threw an empty beer can into the audience, clutched the crotch of his trousers and shouted a minor insult in the direction of the Radio City Hall auditorium. There was little reaction. A few people clapped, a few more booed, but otherwise the would-be shocker failed to score much attention.

Oasis were almost universally ignored in reports of the ceremony in yesterday morning's American newspapers. A single line in the New York Daily News noted that

Gallagher's act was a "big down" while the New York Post, reporting the fact that Oasis had actually bothered to turn up, called him "mercenary". There had been some slight doubt before the show that they would turn up, but it was never really likely that the band would pass up such a rich promotional opportunity.

News reports concentrated instead on the bad language used on stage by Dennis Rodman, a Chicago Bulls basketball player who wore green nail varnish, matching hip-hugging trousers and a shirt that displayed his pierced belly button.

The Oasis performance bore no comparison to the misbehaviour of Sixties and Seventies British rock bands such as The Who and The Sex Pistols, for whom no gig was complete without an indecent amount of guitar smashing and audience abuse. Gallagher was more like Aled Jones after a half pint too many of shandy. If they want to benefit from controversy in the competitive American market they will have to behave a great deal worse.



Liam Gallagher: his monkeying around failed to secure much coverage

## Both sides condemn Unionist MP for role in militant rally

BY NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

NATIONALISTS and Unionists rounded on a Democratic Unionist MP yesterday after he shared a platform with Billy Wright, the militant loyalist who has been threatened with death by Protestant paramilitaries.

The non-sectarian Alliance Party joined the SDLP and Sinn Féin in condemning the Rev William McCrea, MP for Mid-Ulster, after he joined thousands of hardline loyalists at the rally in Portadown, Co. Armagh, on Wednesday night. Their comments were echoed privately by Unionists who were dismayed by Mr McCrea's actions.

Mr Wright, who was given 72 hours to leave Northern Ireland last week by the Combined Loyalist Military Command, was cheered by scores of members of the terrorist Ulster Volunteer Force. During his speech Mr Wright paid tribute to "Ulster's army", which was seen as a reference to the terrorists.

Lord Alderdice, leader of the Alliance Party, described Mr McCrea's action as a disgrace.

Protestants stopped about 1,000 Catholic football supporters from watching their team yesterday in Belfast. Police moved in after Cliftonville supporters were stopped on their way to The Oval in the east of the city by Protestant residents. The Ulster Cup semi-final went ahead in a half-empty stadium.

He said: "He is aligning himself with people who have clearly been fully involved in very worrying activities. He knows perfectly well that is the situation."

Brid Rogers, a leading member of the SDLP in Mid-Ulster, said Mr McCrea's presence was an attempt to exploit community tensions. Francis Molloy, Sinn Féin's Mid-Ulster representative, said: "Willie McCrea and his party refuse to talk to Sinn Féin because they claim we 'support violence'. And yet Mr McCrea shares a platform and defends the right of some

one who, at the very least, has publicly asserted the right of loyalists to kill Catholics."

Mr McCrea insisted that he was simply defending the principle of free speech and called on anyone with allegations against Mr Wright to lay them before a court of law.

The deteriorating security situation in Northern Ireland was discussed yesterday by Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, and Dick Spring, Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister, at an informal meeting in Dublin. They pledged after their meeting to give the multi-party talks at Stormont a new momentum when they resumed on Monday.

In an article in *The Times* today, Sir Patrick acknowledged the harmful effects of this summer's disturbances. But he insists that the Government will press ahead with its search for a political settlement because the widespread view in Northern Ireland was "give talking a chance".

Patrick Mayhew, page 18

## Teacher killed in crash weeks after wife

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A BRITISH teacher working in Africa has died in a road accident, only weeks after his wife was killed in a car crash.

Last night, the dead man's mother, Mary Oates, preparing for his funeral today in Blyth, Northumberland, said: "To think this has happened twice defies belief."

James Oates, 29, died when his motorbike collided head-on with a tractor. His wife, Betty, 31, was killed in her car in June when she swerved to avoid an animal. Both accidents happened near border crossings between Botswana and Zimbabwe.

Mr Oates planned to return home after his wife died but stayed on to help his pupils before their exams. He then took a short break touring on a motorbike. His mother said: "He was on his way back. The sun was low in the sky as he came over a hill. He must have been blinded by the sun."

The couple met two years ago while Mr Oates an MSc graduate of Sunderland polytechnic, was working on a Voluntary Services Overseas project in Botswana. They married a few months later.

Mrs Oates said: "James had a marvellous attitude to life. He believed it didn't matter how long you lived, but what you did with your time."



Amy Kelland: abducted

## Kidnapped daughter flies home

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

A FATHER whose nine-year-old daughter was kidnapped by her mother and taken to South Africa brought her home to Britain yesterday. Mike Kelland faces a bill of £15,000 after flying to Johannesburg and fighting a legal battle to win her back.

Amy Kelland was abducted last month by her mother, Susan Portsmouth, who was on a rare visit to England. Mr Kelland lodged a court action in Johannesburg and flew out to reason with his former wife, whom he divorced six years ago.

The court ruled that Amy should be returned to her father. Back at home in Tiverton, Devon, after flying overnight from Johannesburg, Mr Kelland said: "It has cost an arm and a leg but it was worth it to get my daughter back."

## Oysters on offer from near and far

### WEEKEND SHOPPING

THE new season's native oysters are on offer from about 85p each, but the more common Pacific rock or gigas oysters can be had for as little as 35p each. Victoria plums, cob nuts and English Conforance pears are on the fruit stands and the new season's parsnips and main-crop potatoes have taken their place in the vegetable bins.

A minced-beef quality mark is now appearing on minced beef that is certified offal-free, 100 per cent beef and made only from regular cuts produced from cattle under 30 months old. Announced promotions include:

Asda: British rump steak £7.99 a kg. British lamb chops £7.34 a kg.

Budgens: rindless unsmoked back bacon rashers £1.59 for eight (250g). Cumberland pork sausages 99p for 454g. peppered ham 79p a 4 lb. Basmati rice £1.17 a kg.

Co-op: prime young beef sirloin steak £4.89. Cherry Valley frozen duck in orange sauce £2.99 for 450g. chicken nuggets £1.79 for 233g.

Dewhurst: braising steak £1.89 a lb, diced beef £4.99 for 3lb.

Harrods: Scottish black and white pudding 50p for 100g. smoked wild Scottish haunch of venison £3.25 for 100g. Scottish haggis £2.50 each. extra seasoned Parma ham £3.98 for 100g. Italian pepperoni £1.98 for 100g.

Iceland: gammon grill steaks

£1.69 for six, orange and ginger chicken breasts £2.29 for 396g. prawns £3.99 for 400g. smoked haddock fillets £2.99 for 680g.

Marks & Spencer: chicken and mushroom pasties 99p for two (330g). crispy aromatic duck £5.99 for 550g. luxury musli £2.29 kg. chocolate roll £1.39. tree-ripe peaches or nectarines £1.49 for four.

Morrisons: chicken Kiev £2.89 for 567g. chicken chasseur £1.99 for 500g. British topside/silverside £1.99 a lb. minced beef 99p for 454g. frozen peeled prawns £1.89 for 200g. oysters 35p each.

Safeway: chicken Kiev £3.19 for four (568g). supermince mince beef steak £2.59 kg. chargrill quarter pounders £1.29 for 600g. corn on the cob 25p each. courgettes 39p a lb. kiwi fruit 12p each.

Sainsbury's: braising steak £2.29 a kg. British whole lamb leg £4.29 a kg. medium eggs £2.45 for 24. white potatoes £1.39 for 2.5 kg. closed cup mushrooms £1.69 for 500g. oranges £1.29 for eight.

Somerfield: fresh chicken nuggets £1.59 for 312g. fresh beef sirloin steak £3.79 a lb. fresh haddock fillet £1.43 lb. cherry tomatoes 69p for 227g. cucumbers 29p each. white seedless grapes 64p a lb.

Waitrose: farmhouse chicken £2.65 for 1.8kg. parsnips 69p a lb. Discovery apples 49p a lb. pure grapefruit juice 97p a litr.

ROBIN YOUNG

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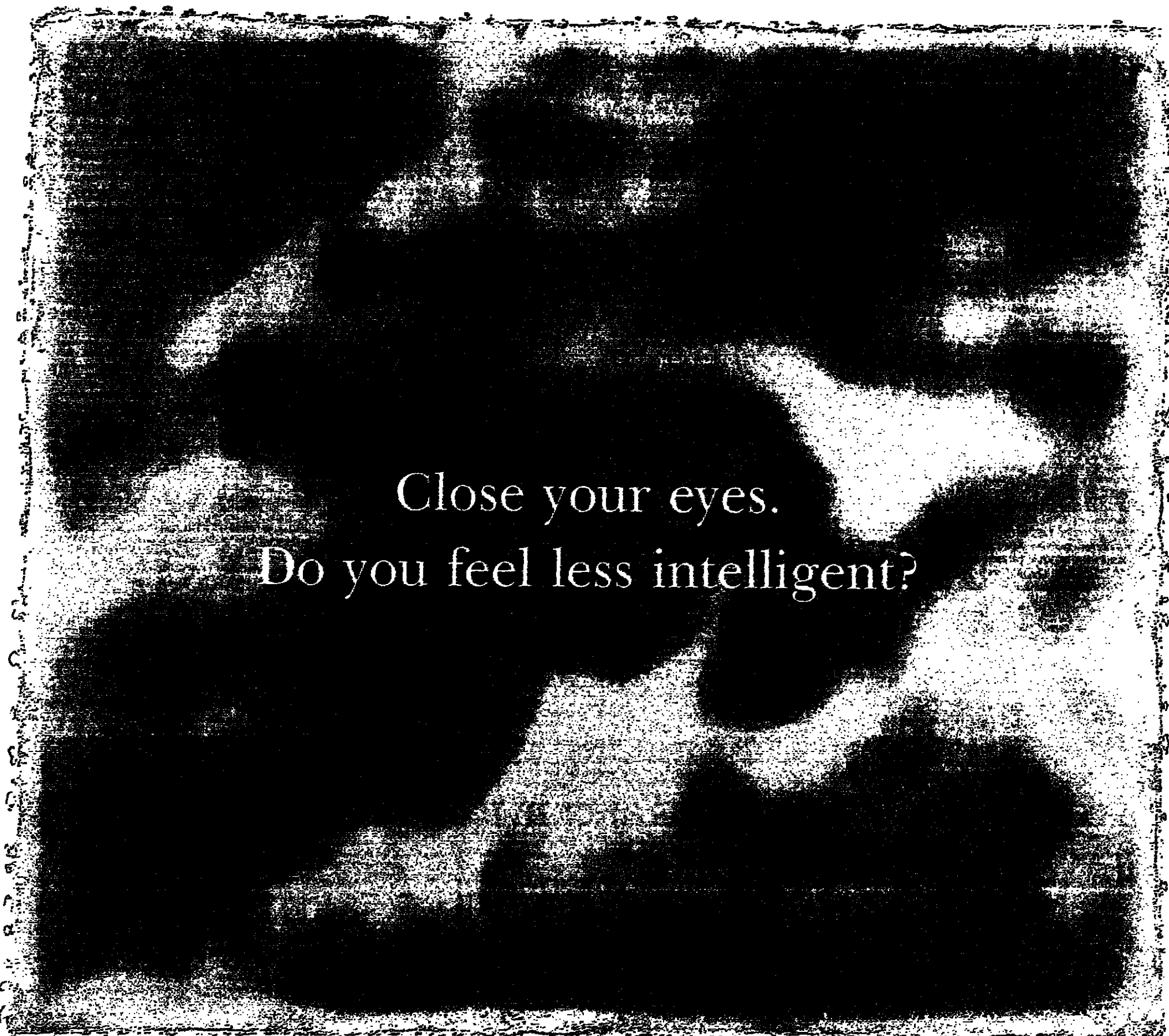
Now, unfortunately, the bad news. Vauxhall's 50:50 finance offer on the Vectra Premier is only available until 30th September. So, anyone who wants to pay for half of the car now and half in two years time, with no monthly repayments or interest in between, had better get motoring.

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# Sick Yeltsin deepens fear of struggle for power in Kremlin

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

WHETHER in peace or war, under dictatorship or during periods of relative liberalism, Russians have always depended on a strong and visible leader. Throughout their history, Russians have been threatened with civil unrest, disorder, rebellion and bloody power struggles whenever a leader has died, been deposed or shown himself too ill or too weak to rule.

The news that President Yeltsin is to have a heart operation is therefore an ominous sign for most Russians and will awaken old fears of a power vacuum at the top. There is a real worry now that the struggle for succession, which has been going on beneath the surface for at least a year, will break into the open and will threaten not only the stability and political well-being of the state but will result in damaging rifts and political feuding that could threaten all the reforms since the collapse of communism.

Naturally, Mr Yeltsin's ill-health comes as no surprise. Despite the strenuous efforts of his image-makers to play down his heart trouble, it has been increasingly clear to everyone, especially since his re-election, that Mr Yeltsin is a

sick man. This was especially evident from his wooden and painful performance at his presidential inauguration a month ago, when he spoke for only 45 seconds.

To a nation that for years grew accustomed to the obvious incapacity of Leonid Brezhnev and his two successors while the press and television maintained that they were as vigorous as ever, the pretence was familiar. It produced the same cynical reaction and the same crop of rumours that Mr Yeltsin was actually dead.

In an age of democracy and openness, however, the taboos could more easily be broken without fear of punishment, and the true state of President Yeltsin's health could no longer be hidden. Regular medical bulletins are now likely, although they will be less intrusively detailed than those on the health of American Presidents.

Such openness may still come as a shock. Russia has a long tradition of the white lie, the unchallenged fiction. An attempt to deceive is not a serious matter, as long as each side knows the real state of affairs. The fiction that the leader is still a vigorous,



Surrounded by bodyguards, Aleksandr Lebed, the Russian national security adviser, arrives in Novye Atagi village for further talks with Aslan Maskhadov, the rebel Chechen chief of staff, over their recent peace deal

central figure in the body politic masks the need to confront the difficult question of succession.

Even in a democratic system, Russian leaders — and especially the shadowy aides serving it — see the need to present an agreed, united, monolithic face. This is especially true at a time when all know that naked ambition is prowling the Kremlin. This is why there has been such embarrassment over the successful conclusion of a peace deal in Chechnya by General Aleksandr Lebed, President Yeltsin's security chief. This is also why each of the would-be successors insists he has the

ear, the authority and the blessing of Mr Yeltsin.

The concern that the Russian leader must be fully fit and vigorous also has deeper roots, going back to the tsarist

and never allowed comment on his withered arm. Physical blunders of any kind were unacceptable to Communist leaders. During his early days as a Politburo member, Mikhail Gorbachev's birthmark was brushed out of official photographs. It was only when he himself initiated a policy of glasnost that he insisted on an end to such pretence.

That openness has since made a mockery of the Kremlin's attempts to portray Boris Yeltsin as the fit and vigorous man he once was.

people to conceal his true incapacity after his strokes. Similarly, Stalin retreated behind a wall of secrecy but felt the need to be seen exercising authority at crucial moments

**‘The struggle for succession could threaten stability and all the reforms since the collapse of communism’**

tradition of the almost sacred person of the Emperor. He must radiate to his subjects the spiritual authority of his position; he cannot therefore be less than fully in command

and fully allowed to discharge his duties. Lenin's long, final illness was an embarrassment to the Bolsheviks. They relied, however, on the traditional distance of the leader from the

## Worried Kohl in call for speedy Moscow summit

By ROGER BOYES

WESTERN fears about President Yeltsin's health prompted a Moscow meeting to be hastily arranged for tomorrow between Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and the Russian leader.

Last night, the trip seemed likely to go ahead, despite German nervousness about Mr Yeltsin's health and the erratic course of the Russian leadership may derail its attempts to put together a new Ostpolitik.

The planned Kohl-Yeltsin summit capped a week of very intense contacts with the former Soviet Union: Herr Kohl spent the first three days of the week in Ukraine; Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister, flew to Bonn; and Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, urged NATO to select its first entry candidates from Central Europe by next March.

The conflict with Iraq put a new item on Herr Kohl's Moscow summit agenda, but the fundamental purpose of the meeting was to discover more about the Russian President's physical condition and his grip on the leadership.

Both the Americans and Germans, although relieved that Mr Yeltsin won the presidential election, are nervous about the Russian leader, about the long-term impact of the war in Chechnya and about a possible financial or economic crisis in the winter.

Of these fears, the greatest is about the health of the President. German intelligence reports have been consistently more downbeat about Mr Yeltsin's illnesses

than those of other agencies. According to the Germans, Mr Yeltsin suffered heart problems in 1987, 1990 and in July and October 1995.

When President Clinton returned from his holiday he immediately expressed confidence in Mr Yeltsin. Observers in Bonn suggest that this was partly prompted by a pooling of French and German intelligence analysis about Mr Yeltsin's condition.

In some respects, Germany is occupying its traditional role during a United States presidential election campaign: engaging in unusually high-profile foreign policy to reassure Russia and the rest of Eastern Europe that the West is not completely absorbed with its own problems. There is no doubt that the Chancellor is co-ordinating closely with President Clinton. Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, will be talking to Herr Kohl today, the eve of his Moscow trip.

Much of the past year of German Ostpolitik has been geared to the need to bring Mr Yeltsin back to power. This involved creating a number of incentives to offer a Western Russian leader, including making Russia a full participant in meetings of the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations, and more moderate discussions on Nato expansion.

Now that the elections are over, however, Herr Kohl has to change gear. The first question to be settled concerns Mr Yeltsin's real state of health, hence the quickly arranged summit tomorrow.

German diplomats have already advised Herr Kohl that there will be no opportunity for sauna negotiations during the summit — Mr Yeltsin's condition forbids it. Trencherman meals are also out and time will be rationed.

Herr Kohl has had experience with sickly leaders in Moscow and knows how to manoeuvre around the problem. In this case, that means maintaining good links with Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian Prime Minister, and sounding out General Aleksandr Lebed, the security adviser, who is something of a closed book to Bonn.



Primakov: made a trip to Germany this week

## Risk of coronary failure remains after bypass surgery

PRESIDENT YELTSIN has always been a brave man, whether sitting on a tank, or defying his political opponents in the corridors of power. He is now about to undergo open heart surgery in a centre well away from the sophisticated world of Western medicine.

Even for a man of his age and past medical history, the actual bypass surgery is relatively safe. Professor Brian Pentecost, the medical direc-

tor of the British Heart Foundation, suggests that the President's chances of surviving a coronary bypass are between 97 and 98 per cent. To put surgical risk in proportion, Mr Yeltsin has odds four times better than those of a prewar patient having surgery for appendicitis.

Fortunately, there is no evidence that Mr Yeltsin's previous heart attacks have left his kidneys damaged; if there had been such evidence,



### MEDICAL BRIEFING

Professor Pentecost would have altered the odds. The remaining question is the amount of damage that heart surgery is likely to inflict on Mr Yeltsin's intellect. The professor is again

optimistic. Although possibly 6 to 10 per cent of patients may be a bit forgetful after bypass surgery, the effect is usually short term.

Mr Yeltsin should be able to return to work within two

or three months, but may find that he is very easily fatigued, physically and mentally.

In about half of patients who have had a bypass, the grafted veins occlude again within ten years. Those who have had a graft not from a vein but from the internal mammary artery have a slightly better track-record. In any event, Mr Yeltsin will find that his cardiologists will be determined to alter his lifestyle, so that he takes

regular exercise, has a low-fat, low-salt diet, and a daily alcohol intake restricted to two or three glasses of red wine.

Damage done by previous coronary thromboses will, of course, remain and will have left Mr Yeltsin's heart muscle permanently weakened, making him liable to heart failure.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFFORD

Leading article, page 19

## Happy ending for Andersen's lost letter

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN COPENHAGEN

DANISH literary experts have discovered a priceless letter written by Hans Christian Andersen in 1859.

Andersen, best known for his fairytales *The Little Mermaid* and *The Emperor's New Clothes*, wrote thousands of letters but most of them were short notes:

making this four-page missive exceptional, says Johan de Mylius, a leading authority on the Danish author.

He said the letter was "very witty and written in a joking style" and was written to congratulate a young politician and newspaper editor who had just been married.

A lawyer, who has not been named, had found the letter earlier this summer

among family documents. He donated the find to the Andersen Centre at the University of Odense, 90 miles west of Copenhagen.

Mr de Mylius, who is based at the centre, said the letter would not be offered for sale. Many of Andersen's letters had fetched up to 10,000 kroner (£1,000), even though they "often were of little interest", Mr de Mylius said.

## US state goes on alert as 120mph hurricane nears

FROM QUENTIN LETTIS IN NEW YORK

BEACHSIDE curfews were imposed in South Carolina yesterday and half a million people were evacuated from homes as the authorities prepared for the landfall of "ferocious Fran", the latest storm of the hurricane season.

The hurricane was forecast to hit the coast of the United States early this morning and was spoken of as a rival to 1989's killer Hurricane Hugo, which left 36 dead, caused about \$10 billion (£6.4 billion) worth of damage in the state and made 50,000 people homeless.

Fran's landfall was calculated for the border between North and South Carolina. By lunchtime yesterday huge waves were pounding the sands of Wrightsville Beach. North Carolina, and curious or footloose locals who ventured down to the waterfront were asked by police to leave. The officers had the power to arrest those who ignored the warnings. The town's pier, half-destroyed by Hurricane Bertha two months ago, was unlikely to survive.

Hurricane warnings were posted the length of the coast from Chincoteague, Virginia, to Brunswick, Georgia. Coastguards predicted storm surges of 10ft and 10in of rain, with all the attendant flooding. Residents of the area's barrier islands submitted to mandatory evacuation orders issued by David Beasley, the Governor of South Carolina.

"Fran is a large and brutal storm," the Governor said. "She is not to be trifled with in any shape, way, fashion or

form. No area along our coastline is safe." Bob Grissom, the Mayor of Myrtle Beach, said through storm-whipped rain: "We hope people will realise how dangerous this storm is going to be and will take the opportunity to leave."

During the course of the day, Fran picked up speed as it roared over the warm Gulf Stream waters of the Atlantic, and was said to be blowing at just below 120mph. "At this time, Hurricane Fran is about as large as Hurricane Hugo and has the potential to become just as strong," the National Hurricane Centre said. A member of the Georgetown County sheriff's department, Major Mike Schwartz, said of the evacuation effort: "If someone refuses to leave, we ask for next of kin."

Storekeepers desperately tried to board up shop windows while fleeing motorists queued at petrol stations and stocked up on food. Traffic on Interstate 26, a major road heading inland, was jammed. Joe Lipsitz, a 76-year-old South Carolinian who stayed put at his home in the town of Beaufort during Hurricane Hugo, said: "I've ridden them all out, but I'm debating whether to go this time."

Schools were closed and 5,000 troops at the Marine Corps base on Parris Island were sent packing. The only people heading east were members of the Federal Emergency Management Agency: they arrived in the endangered areas with vital supplies.

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# THE TIMES

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INSIDE SECTION

2 TODAY



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## SPORT

**Clement Freud: weather-beaten in Brighton**  
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## TELEVISION AND RADIO

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 6 1996

## High street trade at best levels since 1980s, says CBI

By Philip Bassett and Janet Bush

BRITAIN'S high streets are now seeing their best business since the late 1980s, but the Confederation of British Industry said that Britain was not enjoying the same boom conditions as then and that calls for higher interest rates are unjustified.

Bank of England, which appear to have left interest rates unchanged. There was no signal for a change of rates from the Bank yesterday.

The CBI last night warned the Labour Party against offering a "miracle cure" for the British economy and told the Conservatives not to put at risk, for electoral reasons, the economic gains of the past three years. Page 24

a "feeling better factor", and was a "welcome indication that consumer confidence is improving".

The survey of 15,000 outlets in retailing, wholesaling and the motor trade showed that retailers viewed their current levels of business as well above average and that they expected a further rise in sales this month. Most sectors reported a

month a year ago, was at its highest level since May 1993. This would seem to be a further argument against any further lowering of interest rates. But the CBI made it clear that there was nothing in the figures which would indicate the need for an increase in rates.

being very careful and still shopping around." CBI analysts acknowledged that, if current trends continued, prospects for good sales at Christmas were encouraging. However, they also said that uncertainty over the election might begin to have an impact on consumer confidence and therefore retail sales.

## BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET	
FT-SE 100	3867.2 (+14.5)
FT-SE All Share	1922.55 (+5.44)
Nikkei	20371.82 (+177.58)
Dow Jones	5623.57 (+3.23)
S&P Composite	855.02 (+0.59)

US RATE	
Federal Funds	5.75% (5.75%)
Long Bond	7.12% (7.10%)

LONDON MONEY	
3-mth Interbank	5.75% (5.75%)
Life long bill	107.7% (108.7%)

STERLING	
New York	1.5670* (1.5672)
London	1.5679 (1.5695)
DM	2.2280 (2.2204)
FF	1.5675 (1.5651)
Sfr	1.5672 (1.5672)
Yen	171.08 (170.17)
S Index	95.8 (95.6)

Tokyo close Yen 100.05	
London	1.4845* (1.4805)
DM	5.0847* (5.0755)
FF	1.5670* (1.5658)
Yen	108.08* (108.79)
S Index	96.3 (96.2)

Brent 15-day (New)	
London	\$21.35 (\$21.40)
London close	\$386.35 (\$385.75)

Weather damage claims hit RSA	
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## SFO on alert over Morgan Grenfell

By Robert Miller

THE Serious Fraud Office may launch an investigation into the way in which £1.4 billion worth of investors' money was managed by Morgan Grenfell, one of the City's leading fund managers.

unquoted European investments held in the three Morgan Grenfell funds. These were managed by Peter Young, 38, who was suspended on Monday after being interviewed by Imro officials.

the role played by Fiba Nordic, an SFA member, which arranged a private placement of \$70 million worth of Solv-Ex shares. In the same month the SFA in London received further reports about certain transactions in Solv-Ex shares and widened its investigation.

As investors yesterday withdrew £114 million from the three European Morgan Grenfell funds at the centre of an inquiry by City watchdogs, the SFO said that it had continued to monitor developments closely, although it had not yet been passed a case file.

The Morgan Grenfell investigation, spearheaded by Imro and the Securities and Futures Authority (SFA), a fellow watchdog, also involves overseas agencies such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in America and authorities in Luxembourg and, more recently, Switzerland.

Morgan Grenfell has confirmed that independent valuations on the unquoted holdings in the European funds were most often carried out by Fiba Nordic and Ice Securities.

The fraud office only accepts cases involving more than £1 million and where "serious and complex" fraud is alleged to have taken place. A senior SFO lawyer has received a briefing from officials at the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro), the UK watchdog for fund managers.

The investigation that led to the suspension of Mr Young began in April when the FBI launched an inquiry into the affairs of Solv-Ex, a New Mexico company that extracts oil from sand.

It was in July that the SFA notified Imro about the possible trading links between Mr Young, the Morgan Grenfell funds and a third company, Russ Oil & Technology, a firm registered in Luxembourg.

The briefing centred on the alleged irregularities relating to the valuation of certain

In June the Securities and Exchange Commission, the US stock market watchdog, notified the SFA, its UK counterpart, that it was looking at

Mr Young is said to have a close personal involvement with the Luxembourg company and Morgan Grenfell and Royal Bank of Scotland have issued a High Court writ freezing the fund manager's assets and those of Russ Oil & Technology. The writ specifically forbids the dealing in warrants and shares in Xavier Mines, a Canadian drilling company. It is understood that the Xavier Mines warrants may have been pledged as security against some or all of the £400,000 purchase price of Mr Young's house in Amersham, Bucks, where he recently moved with his wife and two children.

## Private investors sell £114m units as dealing resumes

By Caroline Merrell

PRIVATE investors in the three Morgan Grenfell unit trusts being investigated by Imro sold holdings worth £114 million when dealings in the funds resumed yesterday.

levels of unquoted stock held in the funds. Graham Kane, Morgan Grenfell Asset Management managing director, yesterday said it was relieved that the number of redemptions was not higher. He said the funds had more than enough cash to meet investors' demands.

Investors are now also examining possible links between Mr Young and a Swiss law firm which is alleged to have conducted a considerable number of trades for Russ Oil & Technology.

The price of the funds fell by about 3.5 per cent yesterday. In the previous six months, they had fallen by 14 per cent, against the flat trend for European trusts.

Deutsche Bank, Morgan Grenfell's parent company, stepped in earlier in the week to buy all the unquoted stock about which there were valuation doubts. The three funds, worth about £1.4 billion in total, are now carrying about £300 million in cash.

In a separate and unrelated move yesterday Stewart Armer, the manager of Morgan Grenfell's Europa fund, was also suspended. Mr Armer is alleged to have breached personal account dealing rules by dealing through an outside broker rather than an in-house one as the rules stipulate. The alleged infringement came to light during the course of the Imro investigation of Mr Young's dealings.

Morgan Grenfell yesterday held out no promise of compensation for investors for these losses, although the investment house earlier in the week pledged that no investor would suffer loss through recent events. It said: "The fund managers will meet their liability in respect of any irregularities identified in the course of the investigation."

Mr Kane said: "Investors are... those who invested through financial advisers and those who invested directly. Most financial advisers seem to be telling their clients to hold on to their investments. Those who invested directly may be more prone to sell."

The report recommends the Gold Visa version as a best buy for people who pay most of their credit card bills in full. The standard version of the card gets only one Which? red star, again as a card for those who pay their balance in full. Sheila



John Church, the chairman of Church & Co, the footwear company, put his best foot forward yesterday, reporting a pre-tax profit of £125 million in the six months to June 30, up 23 per cent. The company will pay an interim dividend of 3.25p, up from 3p

## Lonrho delays hotels flotation

By Alasdair Murray

Lonrho is delaying the £700 million stock market flotation of its hotel division to consider making a trade sale instead.

The announcement was made just one day before the mining, trading and hotels company, which is in the process of splitting into three separate businesses, was due to publish the flotation prospectus for its Princess Metropole hotels division.

Speculation has grown recently that the float was running into trouble, although Lonrho has insisted that it has been well received by the City. Analysts estimate that a trade sale of the hotel group could fetch up to £1 billion, compared with a prospective flotation value of about £700 million.

Up to a dozen groups are believed to be considering bidding for all or part of the hotel division. But interest is likely to centre on the Princess chain, a ten-strong luxury resort group based in the Caribbean and America, which analysts believe is worth up to £400 million. American hotel chains such as ITT Sheraton, Hilton Hotels Group, Marriott and Renaissance were all last night named as potential bidders.

A successful sale of the Princess chain leaves open the possibility that Lonrho will still proceed with a flotation of the five UK-based Metropole hotels. The group focuses on the large conference sector: it may command a higher UK stock market rating than the Princess chain. A number of potential bidders in the UK hotel sector ruled themselves out of the bidding yesterday, including Sir Rocco Forte, who has been seeking suitable acquisitions since losing the Forte business to Granada in a takeover this year. Lonrho shares rose 1p to close at 177p. A decision is expected within a month.

Pro forma results for the six months to June 30 showed operating profit before tax down from £514 million to £450 million. Realised investment gains were up from £34 million to £109 million. The shares fell 1 1/2p to 410p.

Steven Bird, insurance analyst with Merrill Lynch, said RSA needed to make an acquisition to strengthen its position in the market. "At present, it has a weak life company and depends too much on areas which are open to price competition," he said. "It would be far better for it to look for specialised sectors."

RSA has already announced the closure of 94 branches and 1,300 jobs. It aims to reduce its worldwide workforce by 5,000 from the current level of 45,000 by 1998. Staff numbers at both head offices are to be cut.

An interim dividend of 6.5p per share is being paid and RSA said it was still on target to pay a final dividend of 19p per share.

## 'Best buy' card rating defended

By Sarah Jones

THE Consumers' Association has defended a report in the latest edition of Which?, its magazine, that highlighted its own credit card as a "best buy". The card was launched two weeks ago and is run by Beneficial Bank, which pays the association £5 for every card taken out.

McKechnie, director of the association, personally endorses the Which? card in an advertisement in the same issue. Kate Scribbins, head of the association's money group, said: "We have strict guidelines, which mean our researchers treat the Which? card like any other credit card. We also have an external audit panel which ensures we remain squeaky clean, with no crossover between the commercial and research sides. She added: "The card did not come out well in all categories, which proves our research is impartial."

cards — including the Which? card — charge interest from the date of transaction or purchase rather than the posting date, which means you pay a few more days' interest. Beneficial has altered the terms of its other affinity cards to charge interest from the purchase date.

The report recommends the Gold Visa version as a best buy for people who pay most of their credit card bills in full. The standard version of the card gets only one Which? red star, again as a card for those who pay their balance in full. Sheila

The report fails to point out that some

Pennington, page 25

Pennington, page 25

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□ Green light may be too costly for Wessex □ Royal and Sun Alliance waiting game □ Auditing standards hit by changes

## Problems surface at the deep end

IT IS now six months since Wessex Water said it was planning to bid for its neighbour, South West Water. The prospect of two of the paddling pools of the privatised utility sector coming together had a certain appeal. But then one of the swimming pools, Severn Trent, announced it was wading in. Ofwat decided to call time out on the whole process and pass it to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The MMC is due to pass its views to Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, by September 27. Wessex expects to be given the green light and see Severn Trent blocked.

Its belief is that the MMC is unconcerned about the possible concentration in the waste business. Although Severn Trent, with Biffa, and Wessex, with its joint venture with Waste Management International and UK Waste, are substantial players in the sector, South West's Haul-Waste is concentrated in its home territory and so there is not a massive overlap.

What is going to excite the attention of the regulators is the coming together of the actual water businesses. Ian Byatt at Ofwat is not a fan of Severn Trent. He thinks it is too big anyway and the prospect of it buying South West, so ending up supplying a fifth of the population of the UK

with water, may be too much to swallow. Wessex, on the other hand, has just 2.5 million customers and together with South West would still only be the third smallest water company.

Assuming Ian Lang gives the green light to at least the Wessex offer, there is still an intriguing question as to what might actually happen. As Wessex shareholders file into today's annual meeting, at the appropriately chosen venue of the Assembly Rooms, Bath, they might like to ask its chairman, Nicholas Hood, whether any of the events of the past six months might make Wessex rethink its decision to bid for South West.

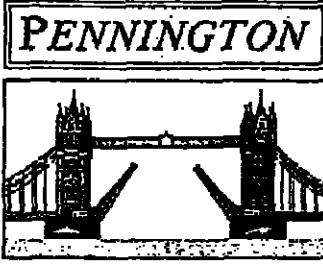
In particular shareholders might wonder what is happening with Wessex's relationship with Waste Management International. It holds 20 per cent of Wessex's shares and 50 per cent of the UK Waste joint venture. But Phillip Rooney, the president of its US parent company, WMX Industries, has said he wants to sell off all its non-core assets and Goldman Sachs has been hired to advise WMX on how it can extricate itself from Wessex. If

this 20 per cent stake is up for sale, then it would be pretty hard for Wessex to underwrite a share issue to fund a South West deal, given that it would have to pay in excess of Wessex's current market value of £750 million. If WMX is selling its half of UK Waste, Wessex would want to buy it. Like buses, Wessex will find that you wait ages for a deal and two come at once.

Mr Hood has been pretty tight-lipped on the company's ongoing relationship with WMX. He will have to come clean before the MMC rules, or else Wessex could be left with a green light for a bid it cannot finance.

### Alliance waits for benefits to show

IT will be a good six months before shareholders in the newly formed Royal and Sun Alliance know whether the merger between the two insurance giants has been a success. Though the board has made much of the expected cost savings from the deal, its presentation yesterday was short on detail of how this



would be achieved. Despite having plenty of cash sloshing about in the reserves, it is loath to grace the market with a share buyback, and said it would be too busy in the short term to think about acquisitions.

The insurance sector is undergoing its biggest shake-up in recent memory as companies struggle to keep down costs while the industry reaches the bottom of its cycle. Royal Insurance and Sun Alliance are the first composites to make the merger route, and have the perfect opportunity to slim down their operations and emerge leaner and meaner than the competition. However, the company is talking excitedly about international expansion without

having put its UK house in order. And there is much to do there: the life company is relatively weak, the direct insurance business needs building up, while motor and household rates show little sign of strong rises in premium rates in the near term.

But at least it does not have the problems of Refuge Assurance, which this week attempted to quell opposition to its merger with United Friendly by offering a sweetener to shareholders.

The Refuge-United Friendly deal has been a lesson for the insurance industry in how not to handle a merger. The deal appeared to have been put together in haste, neither company has come up with a clear figure for anticipated cost savings and shareholders threatened to block the deal in a row over orphan assets. Refuge shareholders must be wondering whether they would be better off taking a 20 per cent premium from a predator and forgetting about the merger altogether. Royal and Sun Alliance shareholders should know by March whether millions of pounds of

lawyers and management consultancy fees have created an industry front-runner or a lame also-ran.

### Ruining the auditors

BY THE standards of some far cats, the £740,000 paid to Colin Sharman is a small tin of Whiskas. But until the beginning of this year, the senior partner of KPMG ran a risk of ruin because of the actions of his colleagues that simply do not exist for George Simpson. The incorporation of KPMG's audit side was designed to take away that risk. Most people thought it was a good thing. Stewart Colley, of the £6.5 billion British Steel Pension Fund, disagrees.

Mr Colley believes that auditors do their job better if they know that a cock-up would mean that someone could sue them for everything they, and their partners, own. This would mean that in a giant practice like KPMG, a mistake in the auditing of any of the 400 quoted companies KPMG polices could mean that a

tax partner in Welwyn Garden City would lose his home, his car and his golf club membership.

The auditors disagree. We are professional and do a professional job, they say. We work no better with a financial sword of Damocles over our heads. That is why some are incorporating and some, such as Ernst & Young or Price Waterhouse, looking to scuttle offshore to set up in Jersey, Bermuda or, god forbid, the Isle of Man.

Neither solution is desperately appealing, though the incorporation option does have the advantage of giving the auditors a UK presence. Mr Colley's protest may not gain much support from other investors, but it does highlight the question of whether shareholders, who are the real clients of the auditors, get the service they deserve.

### Which hunt

SO THE Consumers Association launches a credit card and two weeks later Which? says this is a "best buy". What next? It comes out with a washing machine, an alpaca, a timeshare? The credit card should be withdrawn and refunds given to subscribers to the Which? money guides. And the Consumers Association needs to act quickly to restore its credibility. Sheila McKechnie's resignation would be a start.

## GrandMet starts European sell-off

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

GRAND METROPOLITAN, the food and drinks group, has sold Erasco, its German-based food business, to the Campbell Soup Company for £140 million and plans to sell another ten of its smaller European food businesses.

The move has raised expectations that the group is planning a share buyback, and may seek shareholder consent at its annual meeting in March.

The other businesses to be

sold are expected to raise around £100 million and most of the sales should be concluded by December.

These businesses include Shippams, Peter's Savoury Products, Memory Lane Cakes and Fleur de Lys in the UK; Hoffman-Menu and Goldstein in Germany; Brosard in France and Italy; Suzy and Desobry in Belgium and Drieboek in The Netherlands. The combined sales of these businesses last year were £370

million, with operating profits of £10 million.

GrandMet will maintain a food presence in Europe with four market-leading international brands.

They will be grouped under Pillsbury Europe, the renamed GrandMet Foods Europe, whose headquarters will be moved from Paris to Uxbridge. The four brands are Pillsbury, the chilled dough makers, Green Giant, the leading tinned sweetcorn brand, Häagen-Dazs ice-cream and Old El Paso Mexican foods.

The food company sales, together with the disposal of the Pearlé opticians business in America, which should also be concluded by December and raise more than £100 million, are expected to bring down GrandMet's debts from £2.9 billion to nearer £2.4 billion by the year-end.

On the Stock Exchange, GrandMet's shares ended 4½p better at 473½p.

Times, page 26



Richard Oster expects a two to three-year payback

### Cookson to spend £25m cutting costs

By CARL MORTIMER

COOKSON GROUP delivered a rude shock to the market yesterday with news of a £25 million restructuring aimed at reducing costs and streamlining the business. The announcement came as the group confirmed a downturn in its electronics materials division, which has suffered from destocking by customers in the personal computer and mobile telephone industries.

Cookson said that the cost reductions would be implemented over the next few months and the £25 million charge would appear in the full-year accounts for 1996. Richard Oster, chief executive said that he expected a two to three-year payback on the cost of the programme. Bob Malpas, chairman, said: "Every now and then you look in the cupboard and see that there is nothing to do."

Pre-tax profits for the half year to June 30 rose 5 per cent, to £85.3 million, before exceptional items. The electronic materials division fell 4 per cent, to £34.5 million. The interim payout is rising 11 per cent, to 3.9p, from unchanged earnings of 8.7p a share.

## Granada plans Spring Grove sale for £136m

By ERIC REGULY

GRANADA yesterday agreed to sell Spring Grove Services, the textile services company, for £136.5 million as part of its continuing efforts to dispose of non-core businesses in the wake of its £3.8 billion Forte purchase.

Davis Service, a big operator in the linen rental and cleaning business, is paying cash for Spring Grove. It announced a one-for-three rights issue, raising £71.5 million, to help to finance the deal.

George Boyle, Davis's finance director, said Spring Grove was a natural fit with Davis's Sunlight division. Spring Grove has 2,500 employees, 40,000 customers, 14 processing plants in the UK, four in the Irish Republic and two in Germany. It reported operating profits of £10.5 million on turnover of £84 million in its last financial year.

Mr Boyle said that Davis could easily squeeze more profits out of Spring Grove. Its profit margins of 15 per cent are five percentage points

below those of Sunlight. He partly attributed Spring Grove's relatively low margins to a series of indifferent owners. Since 1989, Spring Grove has been owned by ADT, P&O and Granada.

He added that there would be redundancies at Spring Grove, but the number would not be large.

Davis's issue of 34.4 million convertible stock units was underwritten by Kleinwort Benson at 215p apiece.

The takeover came as Davis announced a pre-tax profit of £12.3 million, or 8.14p a share, in the half year to the end of June, against a pre-tax profit of £11.2 million, or 7.45p a share, previously. Turnover from continuing operations rose marginally to £157.3 million. An interim dividend of 3.9p, up from 3.08p, will be paid on October 25.

Granada said that the Spring Grove sale would raise the total disposal proceeds to £350 million since the Forte acquisition in January.



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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### BIRTHS

Guards at the Garamba National Park, Zaire, are delighted to announce the birth of a new baby rhino 'Mbolifue' - meaning 'Gift from Heaven'.

Both mother and baby are doing fine.

## Godparents wanted

For our precious "Gift from Heaven"

Before Mbolifue's arrival, there were just 29 northern white rhinos alive in Garamba; the last surviving population in the wild. You can imagine the excitement when the tiny baby calf was spotted from the air, moving slowly through the grass behind her mother. In March this year, a pregnant female was shot and brutally butchered by poachers. The birth of Mbolifue goes some way towards compensating for

that tragedy but, as a tiny calf this, "Gift from Heaven" is extremely vulnerable.

That's why we'd like you to help protect Mbolifue by joining our adoption scheme for just £2 a month. In return, you'll receive a photograph of Mbolifue (when we get one!) and regular update bulletins, following your calf's progress. Please help us if you can.

\* Unfortunately, the grass is too high at this time of year for us to photograph baby Mbolifue. This picture of a white rhino comes from our archive.

Yes, I'd like to adopt the new baby rhino Mbolifue

Please fill in this coupon and the Direct Debit instructions.

I would like to adopt Mbolifue for £2 a month □

Mr/Ms/Ms/Mr/Other

Surname

Initials

Address

Postcode

Tel No. (inc STD)

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Date



# Zeneca hits new high on talk of American bid

THE equity market closed near its best levels of the day, supported by suggestions that a bid will emerge this morning for a constituent of the FT-SE 100 index.

The spotlight immediately fell on Zeneca, that old takeover favourite that ended the session 43p dearer at a new high of £15.97, on talk that Warner Lambert, the giant US pharmaceutical group, is poised to offer £2.5 billion for Zeneca at £21.7 a share.

In hectic trading almost three million Zeneca shares changed hands in a market where traders normally quote in 25,000 at a time.

This latest flurry of speculation emanated from the banking sector, where there were suggestions that someone had arranged for an £8 billion line of credit. Some brokers were quick to pour cold water on the story, claiming it was in fact one bank re-organising its syndicated loan book.

But a leading broker said: "There is no reason why Zeneca shares should be at this level, unless somebody knows something is on the way."

The support for Zeneca also spilled over into Glaxo Wellcome, up 24p at 939p, and SmithKline Beecham, 18p better at 760p.

Elsewhere share prices benefited from the overnight rise on Wall Street and the latest bullish retail survey from the CBI showing sales volumes at their highest level for eight years. Despite an early fall in the Dow Jones average, the FT-SE 100 index closed 14.5 points up at 3,887.2. Conditions remained difficult with turnover at a low ebb, only 661 million shares being traded.

Traders were also keeping a close eye on Lucas Industries, down 5p at 231p. The merger with Varity in the US is about to be completed and the enlarged company could be catapulted into the top 100 index.

Dixons helped to underpin the CBI's findings. It confirmed to shareholders at the annual meeting that sales growth throughout the summer had remained buoyant. During the first five weeks of the current financial year like-for-like sales were up 11 per cent and margins remained firm. The shares responded with a jump of 11p at 542p.

A Sainsbury slipped 21p to 375p with brokers worried that the group is still losing



Good results at Royal Doulton, up 10p, for Mark Burrell

market share to Tesco, up 6p at 297p. ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker, is said to have downgraded its recommendation.

Grand Metropolitan was barely moved by news of the sale of its Erasco food business in Germany to Campbell Soup for £140 million. GrandMet said the disposal formed part of a re-alignment of its Euro-

pean food operations. It intends to retain the better-known brands such as Green Giant, Haagen-Dazs and Pillsbury. The shares ended 4p better at 473p.

Lonrho firmed up to 177p after announcing it had postponed the £700 million flotation of its Metropole Hotel chain after being approached by several potential buyers.

Royal & Sun Alliance went

interim figures failed to match their expectations. Pre-tax profits were up £4.1 million at £85.3 million. SBC Warburg, the broker, immediately moved to cut its forecast for the full year by £10 million to £191 million.

Half-year figures from Vickers, the defence and Rolls-Royce luxury motor car manufacturer, were also given a lukewarm reception from the

City, with the shares dropping 12p to 259p. Brokers were worried about a decline in margins at Rolls-Royce. Large-scale boardroom changes were reported.

Burmah Castrol was wanted, finishing 5p dearer at £10.94 ahead of going ex-dividend.

Arjo Wiggins Appleton, the papermaker, tried to offer a few words of comfort for hard-pressed shareholders after reported a plunge in profits. But the shares finished 5p off at 181p after brokers came away from meeting the company disappointed.

The market gave a warm reception to half-year figures from Royal Doulton, the fine china group recently floated off from Pearson and headed by Mark Burrell, chairman. The shares finished the session 10p dearer at 285p after weighing in with profits at the top end of expectations.

The petrol price wars have left their mark on half-year figures from Fleet Group, the petrol retailer, with profits taking a nosedive. The shares touched 113p before recovering to finish at 120p.

Doubled pre-tax profits for Amec at the half-year stage was rewarded with a rise of 21p at 98p, while Hillsdown ended 4p lower at 180p after replacing losses last year of £5.7 million with a surplus of £3.7 million.

Sema Group, the information technology specialist, surged 33p to 775p on the back of a first-half profits surge and the news it had landed two new contracts worth £62 million over the next seven years.

GILT-EDGED: Investors endured a volatile session with early gains pared back by the latest CBI survey, although prices rallied before the close on the back of overseas bond markets.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt rose five ticks to £106 3/32 as a total of 56,000 contracts were completed.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was five ticks firmer at 98 1/16, while in shorts Treasury 8 per cent 2000 slipped a tick to £103 1/4.

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Arjo Wiggins Appleton, the papermaker, tried to offer a few words of comfort for hard-pressed shareholders after reported a plunge in profits. But the shares finished 5p off at 181p after brokers came away from meeting the company disappointed.

The market gave a warm reception to half-year figures from Royal Doulton, the fine china group recently floated off from Pearson and headed by Mark Burrell, chairman. The shares finished the session 10p dearer at 285p after weighing in with profits at the top end of expectations.

The petrol price wars have left their mark on half-year figures from Fleet Group, the petrol retailer, with profits taking a nosedive. The shares touched 113p before recovering to finish at 120p.

Doubled pre-tax profits for Amec at the half-year stage was rewarded with a rise of 21p at 98p, while Hillsdown ended 4p lower at 180p after replacing losses last year of £5.7 million with a surplus of £3.7 million.

Sema Group, the information technology specialist, surged 33p to 775p on the back of a first-half profits surge and the news it had landed two new contracts worth £62 million over the next seven years.

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THE TIMES  
CITY DIARY

In the net for ING Barings

OUTRAGE has broken out at ING Barings after news was leaked that the merchant bank's netball team is being sent on an all-expenses-paid trip to New York. Cries of "injustice" could be heard after it was announced that the sporty gals are jetting off. Club Class of course, to the United States. Dawn Dennison, a presentation specialist in ING Barings's Corporate Finance Division, is on holiday and unable to comment, but word from the sideline is that the netball team are having a "good season".

Cuba's finest

PARTIAL to an after-dinner cigar, Richard Oster, chief executive of Cookson, wasn't always a fan of the noble weed. In the heat of the abortive merger talks with Johnson Matthey, David Davies, chairman and chief executive, took his would-be partner to Fox, the cigar emporium on St James's Street, and selected a few hundred of Cuba's finest for the American to sample. Mrs Oster was less enthused about her husband's new passion, however, particularly when the bill arrived. But for the Cookson chief executive, cigars are one of the better ideas that emerged from his dalliance with Johnson Matthey.

LEEDS, the textile company whose shares fell 30 per cent yesterday after a profit warning, was clearly acting out of hubris when it made its last acquisition — of an Italian company, prophetically named Nemesis.



Harrison: non-smoker

Smoking ban

ANALYSTS and journalists walking into Molins's results meeting yesterday will have missed the fug of smoke that used to greet them. This is the first year that the cigarette machine company has banned smoking at the meeting. Since the arrival of Peter Harrison as chief executive and Peter Grant as finance director, both non-smokers, the company has cleaned up its act.

WHAT'S in a name? A lot according to M&G, Britain's oldest unit trust group, which has fielded more than 500 telephone calls since the news broke at the start of the week that all is not well at Morgan Grenfell. Anxious M&G investors asking "Is it true?" and M&G investors desperate to sell their European holdings have kept the switchboard busy. One caller singled out David Morgan, M&G's bemused managing director.

Drip technique

YORKSHIRE WATER has agreed to pay £90,000 in compensation to the residents of a village in the Pennines after months of disruption caused by repair works to leaking water pipes. Cheques for £60 apiece will shortly be landing on the doorsteps of all 1,500 householders in Southowram. The inconvenience occurred while Yorkshire Water was working on a £12 million pilot scheme in Bradford and Calderdale, to reduce water leaks and establish how best to prevent leaks.

# Post Office's future may depend on this dispute with no winners

Philip Bassett on the stand-off in Royal Mail conflict

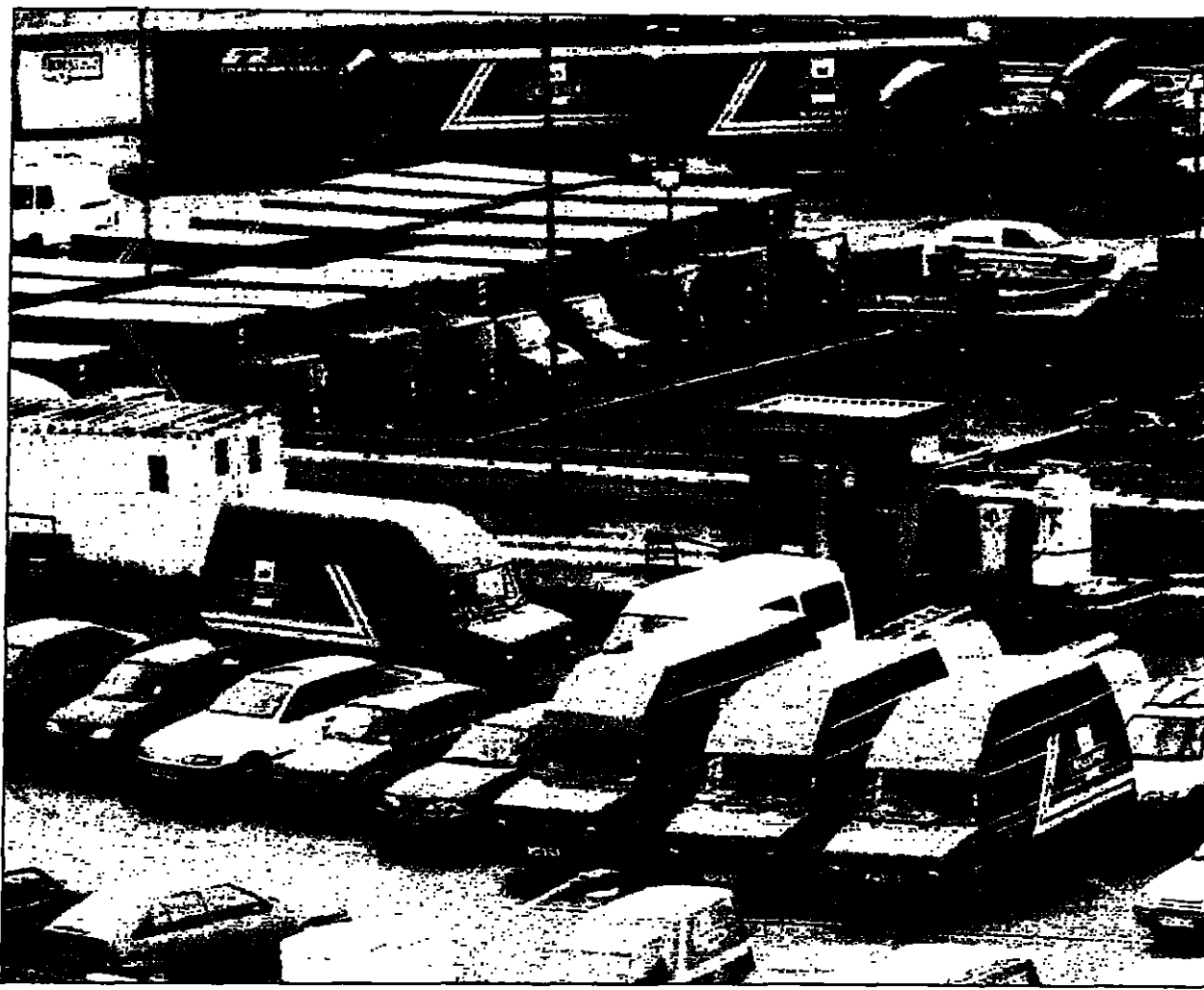
Britain's postal service is today on hold. The Government's month-long suspension of the Post Office's statutory letter monopoly ran out at midnight. But the main postal union is not yet calling more strikes. Squeezed in the middle, the Post Office's business is being hit hard.

Leaders of the Communication Workers' Union have deferred further strikes while putting the Royal Mail's current pay and practices package to branch secretaries next week. The tactic has thwarted plans of Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, to extend for three months a suspension of the under-£1 letter monopoly. The Post Office waits, fielding complaints about service in an era of ever-easier, ever-faster forms of communication.

The strikes mark a dispute that has gone badly wrong. Although danger signals were hoisted early this year by both sides, neither imagined that matters would reach the current state of bleak intransigence — with the Post Office's trade a heavy loser.

For the Post Office, the dispute has been nothing but bad news. This early test of John Roberts, its new chief executive, has been handled in a classic way: proposals, offers and revisions. This careful negotiation, taking in the full industrial relations machinery, including long visits to the conciliation service Acas, has looked weak to the Post Office's political and commercial opponents, and, to fundamentalists on the union side, it has appeared that further gains were endlessly available.

The Post Office has communicated its aims poorly. Even after eight strikes, few people are aware of why it sees the principle of US-style teamwork as so important to its future — though lurking beneath the American human resource language is an old-fashioned power struggle about who runs the job at



Standstill: mail strikes and suspension of the Post Office monopoly have failed to bring out commercial carriers

ground level — managers or workers.

The greatest risk to the Post Office has been in business terms. Much of its ultimately unsuccessful argument in recent years with the Government over greater commercial freedom and ultimately privatisation has been about competition — the hugely increased number of methods by which information can be sent. The Post Office estimates that it could be losing up to £5 billion in revenue for each strike day.

For business customers, the strikes really matter, too. For small firms awaiting orders or payments, not having the mail come can, in some cases, mean going under. In spite of faxes, careful company lawyers still usually require signed paper.

The Direct Marketing Association, representing firms selling to people at home, estimates that each day's strike has cost its members £1 million. Many companies, previously

wary of what they thought were technical complexities of electronic mail, have discovered through the strikes, that e-mailing, once set up, is only a mouse button away, and many will stick to this far-faster form after the dispute is over.

For the public, the dispute has had barely any impact, with the post becoming another of those so-called vital services that, when considered dispassionately in its absence, seems less indispensable than once thought. For most people, the post at home consists mainly of junk mail, which no one cares about, or bills, which most people are glad to see delayed.

On any one day, there is a substantial number of people with birthdays, or awaiting exam results, job offers or similar important mail — but it is a minority. In any case, people generally do not know that a letter is due to arrive, and so do not much miss it when it fails to come on one day, but pops

through the letterbox the next. It remains to be seen whether, with the end of the holiday period, public pressure to settle the dispute starts to rise.

For the Government, the dispute has, up to now, been far from a win. Postmen are popular, and even a string of strikes has not changed that yet, and, in spite of Mr Lang's pithy categorisation of the CWU as a "bonehead" union, ministers have not yet succeeded in depicting it as a villain.

Under pressure from Conservatives still smarting at the CWU's role in thwarting privatisation of the Royal Mail — some of whom see the strikes as an opportunity for revenge — ministers have adeptly used the postal strike, and the current rail and now-settled London Underground and British Airways disputes, to widen the argument.

Ministers have scored significant political points by re-raising, shortly before a general election, the trade union question — winning at least some public kudos from being seen to be doing something by reviewing the question of further employment law.

Indeed, Whitehall insiders acknowledge that, even with a Commons majority of only one, a quick trade union Bill before the election is far from impossible — particularly since ministers feel that it could help them to expose Labour Party divisions. Although Labour has largely kept its cool over the mail dispute, with Tony Blair calling the present package a pretty good offer and urging that it be put to a ballot of CWU members and Labour indicating that it will review its support for the postal workers if more strikes are called, ministers think a further Bill could expose differences between new Labour and old Labour.

However, the biggest failure for the Government in the dispute has been suspending the Post Office's letter monopoly. Seen by ministers as the ultimate weapon, its use has been much less than its threat. Ministers hoped that just raising the prospect of suspension would deflate the CWU — but that hope has proved forlorn. Commercial carriers such as TNT and DHL believe that the suspension so far has had little

impact on the market. Carrier companies — in any case often geared towards traffic to and from Britain, rather than inside it — judge that the big investment needed to penetrate the market is not justified by a month-long suspension of the monopoly, or even any subsequent three-month suspension. To even consider entering the market, carriers would need a full and permanent end to the Post Office monopoly — with TNT pressing the Government for its replacement by a sub-£1 letter duopoly of the Post Office and, unsurprisingly, TNT.

Small outfits, in Nottingham and London, for instance, have emerged to do local deliveries, for which the only investment is shoe leather. If the monopoly suspension is ended, they will be able to make ministers uncomfortable by urging them not to snuff out their entrepreneurship but to offer them licences. In the main, their impact has been local and limited. The monopoly is back today unless the union calls more strikes.

The Government may be failing to benefit, and the Post Office's trade and its commercial customers may be losing out, but the CWU and its strikers are also being hit hard. The seizure of control of the dispute by the CWU's postal executive has so far removed what Post Office managers believe would have been a settlement long ago had the offer been put to union members. The executive's rejection of offers recommended by Alan Johnson, joint CWU general secretary, has damaged his credibility — already in doubt by some CWU activists, who felt that his close support for Mr Blair was leading him towards seeking a Labour seat.

For a close-knit union such as the CWU, still a formidable presence at work, the worst aspect of the dispute is that it is cracking. Post Office managers believe that up to a fifth of postal employees — about 15,000 — are now back working, and mail is unquestionably getting through on strike days, whatever the union claims centrally. Mostly this is in rural areas, where picketing has been light or nil, and the solidity of key areas such as London's Mount Pleasant, Liverpool and Manchester makes an overall drift back to work unlikely. However, the harm to CWU coherence is done — and it is likely to worsen if strikes are stepped up beyond one-day stoppages.

All sides are playing a waiting game, with the union's next move likely to be made in the glare of publicity at next week's TUC conference. Pressure to settle is strong — but has so far been resisted with greater strength by union hardliners. The long-term future of the Post Office may well rest on the outcome.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Small firms under Labour

From Ms Barbara Roche, MP

Commenting on Labour's manifesto for business, Pennington (September 5) suggests that small firms will be hit by Labour's plans for youth training.

Nothing could be further from the truth. One of our proposals is that small firms who taken on a long-term unemployed person aged under 25 and offer relevant training should receive a £60 per week tax rebate which could be claimed up front in a lump sum of £1,560.

This would offer small firms who choose to participate help with the perennial problem of cashflow, whilst reducing youth unemployment and improving the skills of these young people.

Small firms are essential to our economy because of the wealth they create, the jobs they provide and the ideas and technology they develop. They have been let down time and again by this tired Tory Government, whose policy initiatives now boil down to raising taxes and increasing burdens. In contrast, Labour is working with business to come up with sensible and innovative ideas to support this vital sector, as well as raising the nation's skills base. Both are essential if Britain is once again to become competitive.

Yours faithfully  
BARBARA ROCHE MP  
Shadow Small Business Minister  
House of Commons, SW1.

End gambling in securities trade

From Mr David Bickerton

Sir, Given the embarrassment which Flemings must feel at the uncovering of their own rogue trader in Hong Kong, it is not obvious that employees of securities houses (like their colleagues at accountancy, legal and management consultancy firms) should be effectively banned from trading on their own account in the financial markets? Either one is a dispassionate professional or a punter, not both. Yours faithfully,  
DAVID BICKERTON,  
Leycot, Cornells Lane, Widdington, Essex.

Letters to the Business and Finance section of The Times can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5112.

## Hopes high as new captain takes over the helm at GEC

One of the top jobs in British industry is set to be taken up by a man on whose shoulders rests a mountain of expectations.

When George Simpson formally becomes the managing director of GEC on Monday he will end the 33-year reign of Lord Weinstock and begin — investors and brokers hope — a new era for the industrial giant which has been criticised for lumbering through life rather than striking forth.

Although Lord Weinstock will remain at GEC for some time, in the advisory position of chairman emeritus, it is now Simpson's show and hopes are high. It has been a long wait for a change of leadership at GEC. The appetite for what Simpson might bring to GEC was indicated when the share price jumped early in the year as news leaked that Lucas Industries was about to lose its chief executive to Britain's biggest manufacturer.

But if Simpson is true to his reputation, caution will be the watchword. The new GEC chief, who shaped his career at British Leyland and then British Aerospace before taking the reins at Lucas, is renowned for his long-term views. But GEC cannot afford to dawdle as international competitors quicken their step.

It is a company which has a finger in many industry pies but one which is led by defence and power systems — the manufacture of power-station equipment and rail and marine apparatus. After those come telecommunications and consumer durables. GEC, which builds submarines at its VSEL shipyards, is also the company behind Hotpoint cookers and Xpelair extraction systems.

GEC does not cover such a breadth of activity on its own. In a series of joint ventures forged over the last ten years it has responded to the fast-consolidating markets in much of its activities — pushing up volume without incurring huge costs. Defence is



George Simpson is renowned for his long-term view

through GEC-Alsthom; telecommunications is conducted by GFT, a 60-40 link with Siemens of Germany, and the consumer brands of Hotpoint, Creda and Xpelair among others are part of a joint venture with General Electric, GEC's US namesake.

High on Simpson's list must be to offload some of the more peripheral businesses. He could go so far as a demerger. But, while on the face of it GEC would lend itself to some splitting, the cloud of Hanson's poorly received demerger must hang over such considerations.

A merger is another possibility, fusing GEC's defence business with British Aerospace. A merger with BAE would bolster the defence side of the business as European aerospace companies increasingly sense the need to consolidate. Simpson comes fresh

interested in buying the defence division, Thomson-CSF. Alcatel has few defence interests and would probably seek a partner, for which role GEC would seem to have ideal credentials. GEC already has a joint venture with Alcatel in GEC-Alsthom, the power systems business, which it recently further cemented by a move to buy Framatome, the French builder of nuclear power stations. The two partners will try to buy Framatome, in which Alcatel has a 44 per cent interest, after the French Government forced it to relinquish majority control six years ago. It is expected that the dual bid will provide Alcatel with additional funds with which to oil a bid for Thomson.

Further consolidation in European aerospace is high on the agenda of all participants. Europe has much to do to catch up with Raytheon and Hughes in the US and Simpson must position GEC among the frontrunners.

Then, of course, there is the question of what to do with GEC's almost legendary cash pile, amassed by Lord Weinstock. Last year interest from the cash mountain — which stands at £2.6 billion — contributed £151 million to profits. The hoarding of cash has been much to the chagrin of some investors who felt that a more aggressive stance would have delivered a more vigorous performance.

Simpson could return cash to shareholders via a special dividend or share buyback but the chances are that he will do none of these things hastily. Shareholders received a 12 per cent rise in the dividend with the last set of results. Profits before exceptional jumps through the psychologically important £1 billion mark and the order book is strong.

The expectations are high, possibly too high. Activity may be fast in GEC's markets but the new chief executive knows that his positioning of the company to face the next century is crucial.

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# IBM unveils \$700 Internet desktop computer

FROM RICHARD THOMSON  
IN NEW YORK

IBM has become the first large computer company to launch a "stripped down" desktop computer, which many in the high-technology industry see as the next generation of computer hardware, for less than \$700.

Yesterday's announcement means that IBM has won the race between major computer makers to produce the new type of computer, which is designed to be more accessible and affordable for ordinary users. Although Acorn, a British

company, developed such a computer several months ago it does not have the same market clout to sell its product as IBM. IBM claims the new device will have as big an impact as the original desktop PC that it popularised and set standards for in the early Eighties.

The new machine is about the size and shape of a telephone directory standing on end. It does not contain programmes of its own but uses software downloaded from the Internet. It can carry out the most popular functions of desktops, such as word processing and spreadsheets, but is specially designed to work

with the Internet and internal company computer networks.

IBM is initially going after the corporate market where companies are eager to find savings on computer equipment. The machines will cost under \$700, compared with more than \$2,000 for an ordinary desktop, and will be cheaper to maintain and run. IBM claims they will cost roughly half the amount of an ordinary desktop over a five-year period.

The company will launch a consumer version of the new machine next year. Other leading computer companies are expected to launch

their versions in the near future. The new machines are a serious threat to Microsoft, which has gained its dominance by providing operating software for desktops. The fact that they can be downloaded from the Internet is one reason Microsoft is scrambling to gain a dominant position on the system. But so far it is lagging smaller competitors such as Netscape.

IBM is part of a group of computer companies, including Netscape, Oracle, Sun Microsystems and Apple — but excluding Microsoft — developing common standards for the new computer.

## Arjo suffers worst time since flotation

By CLARE STEWART

A SHARP fall in the price of pulp, combined with a decline in demand, took their toll on first-half results at Arjo Wiggins Appleton, the Anglo-French paper manufacturer. At the pre-tax levels profits fell from £135.3 million to £32.3 million in the six months to June 30.

After last month's profit warning by the company, the market was braced for the figures, but the results still came in just below some analysts' revised expectations.

In common with other paper producers, Arjo Wiggins has found itself squeezed by the impact of a sharp fall in pulp and paper prices and a worse than expected decline in demand.

Cob Stenham, chairman of Arjo, described the first half of 1996 and the second half of 1995 as "the worst period the group has experienced since its flotation".

In Europe margins in Arjo's carbonless and thermal papers were particularly squeezed by the difficult conditions, though improved demand for the high value products of the fine papers division helped its profits to recover. Turnover in Europe

overall fell 9 per cent to £712.4 million, while operating profits dropped from a profit of £38.1 million last year to a loss of £6.2 million.

Results from its French businesses showed a drop in operating profits from £40.3 million to £8.2 million, while in the UK profits fell from £17.6 million to £8.1 million.

A £120 million restructuring programme is under way as Arjo Wiggins seeks to reduce fixed costs and streamline capacity. About 600 jobs will be affected by the changes, the benefits of which, says the company, will be seen in 1997.

In North America, in spite of weaker demand, the picture was brighter as 1995 price increases were maintained and profit margins improved as the cost of pulp fell. Operating profits fell from £62.4 million to £39.9 million.

Profits were also down in Arjo's merchanting business as lower demand and falling prices ate into operating profits, which dropped from £37.6 million to £18.7 million.

There are some signs of improvement in the market. Destocking appears, says Mr Stenham, to be over and the order books are stronger. But he added: "Economic growth prospects through the second half of the year remain unexciting, particularly in Europe."

Arjo is paying an unchanged dividend of 2.90p. Its shares ended 5p lower at 181½p.

Analysts have cut full-year forecasts several times this year, in the wake of Arjo's profit warnings. UBS, the company's broker, is looking for profits of £130 million, having revised its original forecast of £160 million pre-tax.



Stenham: order books up

Tempus, page 26



James Frost blames price war by Esso for a 40 per cent first-half volume decline

## Frost feels price war heat

FROST, Britain's fourth-largest petrol station chain, yesterday said its decision not to join the petrol price war and guard its margins had led to a 40 per cent volume drop in the first half of the year (Fraser Nelson writes).

James Frost, chairman, blamed Esso's Price Watch scheme for its poor results, as he posted pre-tax profits of £3.8 million in the first half,

compared with 5.6 million. Predicting a tough second half, he said only Esso could call a halt to the price war, but predicted this would not happen until the end of the year.

With a six-month contribution from Burmah, the petrol wholesaler bought in July last year, turnover shot to £242 million (£143 million). Operating profit was 2.3 per cent of sales, against 4 per cent

The group spent £5.68 million on restructuring costs, as it continues to shed the sites bought from Burmah. From 804 sites purchased last year, fewer than 500 remain. The group aims to close a further 250.

Earnings were down from 6p to 3.5p per share. A maintained interim dividend of 3.2p will be paid on January 1.

## Simon to cut debt mountain with sale

By FRASER NELSON

SIMON ENGINEERING, the hydraulic platforms to process engineering group, has agreed to put its entire access provision business on the auction block in a bid to eliminate its spiralling debt.

The move comes after pressure from its bankers, which have watched Simon's borrowings grow from £75.1 million to £82.7 million over the first half of the year. After the sale, the group will be reduced to half its current size.

Simon's shares fell from 49p to an all-time low of 39p yesterday before settling at 41½p. Analysts said this reflected the uncertainty about how much the disposals would fetch and how long it would take to find a buyer.

If the sale goes through, Simon will be left with its storage and process engineering divisions. While this will more than halve Simon's turnover, profits will be barely affected. In the six months to June 30, the access provision division generated 49 per cent of sales, but only 18 per cent of operating profit.

Maurice Dixon, chief executive, said the division's impact on pre-tax profits was smaller still. While trading at the operations was recoverable, debt had become too "expensive and time-consuming". He said that the group would be looking at bolt-on acquisitions for the storage businesses, and added he was looking at four possible buys.

Its access provision division commands 15 per cent of a fragmented worldwide market. In the US, the business generated operating profit of £3.9 million, but heavy losses in the UK and elsewhere totalled £2.4 million.

Pre-tax profits were at £3.7 million (£2.4 million), on sales up from £147 million to £166 million. Gearing rose from 97 per cent to 104 per cent, as debt overtook equity once again. Simon gave warning that the second half would be little different, with profits at about last year's levels.

Earnings rose from 0.4p to 0.6p per share. Once again, there is no interim dividend.

### BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Cattles interim rises on better earnings

CATTLES, the financial services group, reports an increase in half-time profits for the six months to June 30. Its pre-tax figure grew 17 per cent to £14.7 million, compared with £12.6 million a year ago. Within its consumer division Shopcheck, one of Britain's largest weekly collected credit companies, increased its profit 14 per cent to £9.98 million. This excludes the first time a contribution from Shopaplan, which made a stand-alone profit of £270,000, well below last year's estimated £500,000. Cattles said it would put greater priority on retaining Shopaplan customers once it has been fully separated from Shopcheck. The customer base increased by 13,000 since the beginning of the year.

Cattles's earnings per share were 7.2p, up 16 per cent and on November 4 the company will pay a 2.8p interim, up from 2.45p. Peter Courtney, the chairman, said: "Progress continues in all sectors of the business and we look forward with confidence to another successful year."

## Friendly close on deals

FRIENDLY HOTELS revealed yesterday that it was close to a number of acquisitions after reporting a modest increase in half-year profits. Henry Edwards, chairman, said the company was near to signing several deals and would be using the £10 million invested in the company by Choice Hotels, the US company, to help expansion. The company also intends to develop a chain of leisure clubs. Profits for the six months to June 9 rose 3 per cent to £1.2 million. Turnover increased 4 per cent to £18.4 million. The interim dividend is maintained at 2.2p, payable on January 10. Shares closed 2.5p up at 177.5p.

## Sanwa files charge

SANWA BANK, a leading Japanese commercial bank, has filed a breach of trust charge against a former official who allegedly embezzled 550 million yen (about £2.5 million). The bank says the former manager of its Yukigaya branch in central Tokyo had run up debts totalling ¥100 million in commodity futures and equities. The alleged deficiency was discovered by the bank on April 1 and reported to financial authorities on April 5. Starting in April, Sanwa strengthened its monitoring of large accounts and its internal auditing. The case is now under police investigation.

## Ashanti refinances

ASHANTI GOLDFIELDS has refinanced the former Cluff Resources operations in Zimbabwe, trimming interest charges by more than \$1 million a year. The saving has been achieved through a \$40 million loan with UBS and Dresdner Bank, enabling the refinancing of \$28 million of high-coupon debt. The deal has freed \$12 million to fund expansion of the Freda Rebecca mine near Harare. Ashanti has been integrating operations since acquiring Cluff Resources several months ago.

## Psion extends range

PSION, the computer company, has unveiled two additions to its range of palmtop computers in an attempt to further boost market share. The Psion Series 3c, an updated version of the Series 3a, comes in two models, selling for £399.95 and £339.95. A new organiser, the Psion Siena, condenses the features of the Series 3a into a shirt-pocket-sized format. There are two models, costing £229.95 and £169.95. Psion has about 33 per cent of the worldwide market in palmtops. Its closest rival is Hewlett Packard, with about 28 per cent.

## China must meet criteria

A WORLD Trade Organisation (WTO) without China is a global trade body with a missing limb, but the world's most populous nation still must meet basic criteria before gaining entry, Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, said in Peking yesterday. He cited trade transparency, market access, tariffs and legal structures as areas that needed further exploration. A WTO working group will meet this year in Geneva to try to negotiate a deal that would allow China's accession, but China said last month its prospects appeared bleak.

## Fitzwilton advances

FTZWILTON, the Irish holding company, lifted interim profits 13 per cent to £5.1 million in the half year to June 30, helped by a jump in retail sales at its Wellworth subsidiary, one of Northern Ireland's largest chain stores. Earnings per share rose 16 per cent to 17.3p and the company declared an increase of 5 per cent in the interim dividend to 11.1p, payable on January 31. Fitzwilton's 13 per cent stake in Waterford Wedgwood, the ceramic and crystal manufacturer, contributed £1.6 million.

## Vanguard R&D 'ahead'

VANGUARD MEDICA, the drugs development company, said yesterday that research and development on three of its drugs, including a migraine treatment known as VML 251, was ahead of schedule. The company, which was founded by six industry veterans, said that VML 251 will probably be the first of five new drugs to reach the market. Vanguard reported a pre-tax loss of £3.7 million in the half year to June 30, against a loss of £1.8 million previously. The deeper loss was expected. The shares closed at 495p, down 7½p.

## Wellington growth plan

WELLINGTON HOLDINGS, the industrial rubber manufacturer, is resuming its quest for acquisitions with cash reserves of £10 million to fund expansion. In the six months to June 30 pre-tax profits rose to £2.9 million (£2.32 million) on sales of £8.83 million (£7.97 million). An interim dividend of 2.7p (2.4p) will be paid on November 5. While revenue from France and Germany fell Wellington said many of the lost orders were won by its UK operations, as car manufacturers opened plants in the UK and the Irish Republic.

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## Fine showing by Royal Doulton

By CLARE STEWART

SOARING sales of fine china in Japan and Australia helped Royal Doulton, which manufactures the Royal Albert and Minton brands, to lift its first half profits by 17 per cent to £4.2 million.

Royal Doulton saw sales overall rise by 5.4 per cent to £114.1 million, while earnings rose 20.5 per cent to 5.3p per share.

Stuart Lyons, the chief executive, said Australia and Japan showed the strongest performances. In Japan profits have risen to just over £500,000, compared with break-even last year.

In America, which accounts for just under a third of profits, further expansion is underway, said Mr Lyons. Nine more shops are to open before the year-end to make a total of 58. He said that sales in America have shown very good growth in the first half.

UK sales in the first half were also strong, with the key Christmas season to come. Retail sales were steady, with the division's performance helped by the trend away from price discounting and by increased consumer spending.

In addition to sales through concessions and its own Lawleys stores, there was a good performance from the division supplying retailers, such as Marks & Spencer, and from its hotels and airlines business.

Investment in its Indonesian factory was just under £4.9 million in the first half, bringing the total cost to £9.2 million. Full production begins next March.

Royal Doulton is increasing its interim dividend 12.5 per cent to 2p. On the stock market its shares closed 10p better at 295½p.

## Profits warning hits Leeds Group

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

SHARES of Leeds Group, the textiles manufacturer, fell 30 per cent yesterday after it gave warning that profits would be significantly lower than last year's £7.5 million.

Robert Wade, chairman, said that the increase in imports of cheaply-made cloth-

ing and the continuing depressed retail sectors in Germany and France had damaged the group's business.

Despite the company's problems, it intended to maintain the final dividend, which last year was 4.4p net.

In June, the company reported an interim pre-tax profit of £3.27 million, compared with £3.61 million a year earlier.

Mr Wade said the Strines subsidiary has "been at the eye of the storm". Business with UK customers was down 50 per cent in the past six months.

The withdrawal of Liberty, for years Strines's largest customer, from its fabric converting business has been a particularly heavy blow, he said. He added that "he remains concerned about the outlook for this division".

City diary, page 27

Wade: "eye of the storm"

## Thistle Hotels boosts Brierley

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

BRIERLEY INVESTMENTS, the New Zealand holding company headed by Sir Ron Brierley, said yesterday that a strong rise in the market value of its 70 per cent owned Thistle Hotels. Britain's second largest hotel chain, was one of the key reasons behind a sharp rise in the value of its assets in the year to June 1996.

The group also confirmed that it intends to float about 20 per cent of its Thistle stake on the London stock market in October after the launch of a prospectus this month.

Paul Collins, chief executive, said: "Thistle Hotels' value has materially improved as a result of strong earnings

growth and rapidly improving asset values within the UK hotel sector."

Brierley Investments increased its intrinsic value — the company's own assessment of its value — from NZ\$3.50 billion (£1.52 billion) to NZ\$4.19 billion for the year to June 1996, representing a value of NZ\$1.40 a share, up from NZ\$1.25. Net assets per share rose from NZ\$1.21 to NZ\$1.23.

Brierley's performance was also boosted by an increase in the market value of its 51 per cent stake in Sky City, a casino in Auckland, which now exceeds its book value by NZ\$230 million.

Total net profits fell 28.1 per cent to

NZ\$310.3 million, with dividends received from investments over the year down from NZ\$93 million to NZ\$36 million.

Mr Collins said: "Some of the New Zealand businesses, including Air New Zealand, are presently experiencing rather more difficult trading times due to the slowdown in the local economy and the strong New Zealand dollar."

However, the present expectation is that earnings from operations will be satisfactory in the current year. He added: "The new financial year has started well with Thistle Hotels maintaining its strong growth in earnings."

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## Modest gains in thin trading

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1996	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
<b>ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES</b>					
121	121	Adnams	47.5	3	31.70
122	122	Beck's	12.5	1	12.50
123	123	Brewery	12.5	1	12.50
124	124	Carlsberg	12.5	1	12.50
125	125	Carlsberg	12.5	1	12.50
126	126	Carlsberg	12.5	1	12.50
127	127	Carlsberg	12.5	1	12.50
128	128	Carlsberg	12.5	1	12.50
129	129	Carlsberg	12.5	1	12.50
130	130	Carlsberg	12.5	1	12.50

1996	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
<b>BANKS</b>					
131	131	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
132	132	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
133	133	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
134	134	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
135	135	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
136	136	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
137	137	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
138	138	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
139	139	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
140	140	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12

1996	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
<b>DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS</b>					
141	141	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
142	142	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
143	143	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
144	144	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
145	145	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
146	146	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
147	147	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
148	148	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
149	149	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
150	150	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12

1996	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
<b>BREWERY, PUBS &amp; REST</b>					
151	151	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
152	152	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
153	153	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
154	154	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
155	155	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
156	156	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
157	157	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
158	158	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
159	159	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
160	160	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12

1996	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
<b>BUILDING &amp; CONSTRUCT</b>					
161	161	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
162	162	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
163	163	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
164	164	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
165	165	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
166	166	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
167	167	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
168	168	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
169	169	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
170	170	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12

1996	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
<b>BUILDING MATERIALS</b>					
171	171	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
172	172	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
173	173	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
174	174	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
175	175	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
176	176	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
177	177	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
178	178	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
179	179	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
180	180	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12

1996	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
<b>CHEMICALS</b>					
181	181	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
182	182	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
183	183	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
184	184	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
185	185	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
186	186	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
187	187	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
188	188	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
189	189	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
190	190	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12

1996	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
<b>DISTRIBUTORS</b>					
191	191	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
192	192	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
193	193	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
194	194	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
195	195	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
196	196	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
197	197	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
198	198	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
199	199	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
200	200	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12

1996	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
<b>ENGINEERING, VEHICLES</b>					
201	201	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
202	202	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
203	203	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
204	204	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
205	205	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
206	206	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
207	207	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
208	208	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
209	209	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
210	210	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12

1996	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
<b>FOOD MANUFACTURERS</b>					
211	211	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
212	212	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
213	213	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
214	214	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
215	215	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
216	216	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
217	217	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
218	218	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
219	219	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
220	220	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12

1996	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
<b>LEISURE &amp; HOTELS</b>					
221	221	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
222	222	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
223	223	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
224	224	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
225	225	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
226	226	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
227	227	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
228	228	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
229	229	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
230	230	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12

1996	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
<b>HOUSEHOLD GOODS</b>					
231	231	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
232	232	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
233	233	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
234	234	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
235	235	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
236	236	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
237	237	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
238	238	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
239	239	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
240	240	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12

1996	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
<b>INSURANCE</b>					
241	241	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
242	242	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
243	243	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
244	244	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
245	245	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
246	246	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
247	247	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
248	248	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
249	249	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
250	250	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12

1996	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
<b>INVESTMENT TRUSTS</b>					
251	251	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
252	252	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
253	253	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
254	254	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
255	255	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
256	256	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
257	257	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
258	258	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
259	259	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
260	260	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12

1996	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
<b>SHORTS (under 5 years)</b>					
261	261	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
262	262	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
263	263	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
264	264	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
265	265	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
266	266	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
267	267	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
268	268	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
269	269	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
270	270	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12

1996	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
<b>MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)</b>					
271	271	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
272	272	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
273	273	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
274	274	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
275	275	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
276	276	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
277	277	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
278	278	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
279	279	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12
280	280	ABN-AMRO	34.0	3	43.12

1996			1997			1998			1999		
High	Low	Company	Price	%	PE	High	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
<b>PHARMACEUTICALS</b>											
121P	127S	Merck & Co.	121 7/8	7%	46 1/8	63 1/2	55S	Lilly, Chem	65 1/2	2%	28 1/10
286	271	Pfizer	286 1/4	5%	56 1/2	158	149 1/8	Pfizer	148 1/2	1%	25 2/10
287	287	BioCryst	287	3%	58 1/2	202	194 1/8	Amgen	194 1/8	5%	23 2/10
288	282	Novo Nordisk	288 1/4	3%	37 7/10	628	57S	Novartis	570	5%	31 1/10
289	287	Amgen	287 1/4	4%	46 1/2	414	382 1/2	Amgen	382 1/2	5%	24 1/10
290	287	Johnson & Johnson	287 1/4	2%	21 7/10	62	57 1/2	Merck Serono	57 1/2	5%	24 1/10
291	283	Lilly	283 1/4	4%	48 1/2	429	382 1/2	Novartis	382 1/2	5%	26 2/10
292	283	Novartis	283 1/4	4%	48 1/2	429	382 1/2	Novartis	382 1/2	5%	26 2/10
293	281	Lundbeck	281 1/4	5%	62 1/2	56	50 1/2	Novartis	50 1/2	5%	24 1/10
294	281	Lundbeck	281 1/4	5%	62 1/2	56	50 1/2	Novartis	50 1/2	5%	24 1/10
295	281	Lundbeck	281 1/4	5%	62 1/2	56	50 1/2	Novartis	50 1/2	5%	24 1/10
296	281	Lundbeck	281 1/4	5%	62 1/2	56	50 1/2	Novartis	50 1/2	5%	24 1/10
297	281	Lundbeck	281 1/4	5%	62 1/2	56	50 1/2	Novartis	50 1/2	5%	24 1/10
298	281	Lundbeck	281 1/4	5%	62 1/2	56	50 1/2	Novartis	50 1/2	5%	24 1/10
299	281	Lundbeck	281 1/4	5%	62 1/2	56	50 1/2	Novartis	50 1/2	5%	24 1/10
300	281	Lundbeck	281 1/4	5%	62 1/2	56	50 1/2	Novartis	50 1/2	5%	24 1/10
301	281	Lundbeck	281 1/4	5%	62 1/2	56	50 1/2	Novartis	50 1/2	5%	24 1/10
302	281	Lundbeck	281 1/4	5%	62 1/2	56	50 1/2	Novartis	50 1/2	5%	24 1/10
303	281	Lundbeck	281 1/4	5%	62 1/2	56	50 1/2	Novartis	50 1/2	5%	24 1/10
304	281	Lundbeck	281 1/4	5%	62 1/2	56	50 1/2	Novartis	50 1/2	5%	24 1/10
305	281	Lundbeck	281 1/4	5%	62 1/2	56	50 1/2	Novartis	50 1/2	5%	24 1/10
306	281	Lundbeck	281 1/4	5%	62 1/2	56	50 1/2	Novartis	50 1/2	5%	24 1/10
307	281	Lundbeck	281 1/4	5%	62 1/2	56	50 1/2	Novartis	50 1/2	5%	24 1/10
308	281	Lundbeck	281 1/4	5%	62 1/2	56	50 1/2	Novartis	50 1/2	5%	24 1/10
309	281	Lundbeck	281 1/4	5%	62 1/2	56	50 1/2	Novartis	50 1/2	5%	24 1/10
310	281	Lundbeck	281 1/4	5%	62 1/2	56	50 1/2	Novartis	50 1/2	5%	24 1/10
311	281	Lundbeck	281 1/4	5%	62 1/2	56	50 1/2	Novartis	50 1/2	5%	24 1/10
312	281	Lundbeck	281 1/4	5%	62 1/2	56	50 1/2	Novartis	50 1/2	5%	24 1/10
313	281	Lundbeck	281 1/4	5%	62 1/2	56	50 1/2	Novartis	50 1/2	5%	24 1/10
314	281	Lundbeck	281 1/4	5%	62 1/2	56	50 1/2	Novartis	50 1/2	5%	24 1/10
315	281	Lundbeck	281 1/4	5%	62 1/2	56	50 1/2	Novartis	50 1/2	5%	24 1/10
316	281	Lundbeck	281 1/4	5%	62 1/2	56	50 1/2	Novartis	50 1/2	5%	24 1/10
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THEATRE 1

At the Mermaid, Ninagawa's *Dream* mixes visual joy with astounding energy...



THEATRE 2

... while, across the river, the Globe offers a plainer but no less rewarding midsummer night

THE TIMES ARTS



FILM

Christopher Hampton is among those who will present scripts in a new BFI initiative



TOMORROW

A skyscraper too far? Can London's city vista take another high-rise monster?

Contrasting *Midsummer Night's Dreams* in London: Ninagawa's superb vision at the Mermaid; Northern Broadside at the Globe

# Yes, yes to the Noh view

Nobody has ever seen a Shakespearean fairy, which means that he or she does not have to be a cute, winged tot with an ear for Mendelssohn. Fairies can be acrobats and trapeze artists, as they were in Peter Brook's revival of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

They can also be dreamy-looking Japanese with flowers sprouting from their hair who dance across white dunes covered with red poppies. Accompanied as they sometimes are by a Puck who double-somersaults through thin pillars of light down which sand pours, these androgynous beings do much to ensure that Yukio Ninagawa's *Dream* remains a visual joy. But his production at the Mermaid is far more than that. The grudging English philistine who lurks in my head feared that a Japanese *Dream* without subtitles would be a long, worthy slog. But even if, like me, you understand little but the occasional "Tighten up" or "Bottom", the evening is irresistible. I cannot recall a *Dream* that so splendidly combined energy and theatricality, ferocity and fun.

The programme informs us that the big pustular stones scattered around the bare set symbolise "a Buddhist view of the world". So they may. But what we want are fairies who astonish, lovers with verve and pep, mechanicals who genuinely amuse. Many productions achieve one or even two of these things. Ninagawa gives us all three — and to the accompaniment of music that sometimes sounds Japanese, sometimes as if Handel has been collaborating with Andrew Lloyd Webber.

As often nowadays, Oberon and Titania are performed by the same actors who play Theseus and Hippolyta. Unlike many English directors, though, Ninagawa does not use this doubling to suggest that the humans are solving their conflicts by dreaming that they are quarrelsome spirits. Tetsuro Sagawa's solid, bearded Theseus beams

happily at Kayoko Shiraishi's svelte Hippolyta — then both are transformed beyond recognition. It is not just that they wear small gardens on their heads. They come at each other like luxuriant titans.

There really is war in fairyland, as the text suggests. Sagawa growls, rages, cackles with glee at the idea of revenge. Shiraishi rasps, snarls and does not soften even when she falls for Bottom. Shaking, gurgling and seething, she fondles his ass and grabs him hungrily by the legs. Goro Daimon, whose loquacious weaver has seemed ready for anything, emerges from her bed looking shattered. Thus do Ninagawa's actors bring brashness and bite to often bland encounters.

Yet Oberon and Titania — witness Shiraishi's wincing horror when she sees Bottom as he is — do not lack humour. Nor do lovers who, regardless of gender, flail, kick and square up to each other like all-in boxers. Nor do mechanicals who invade the Noh-like atmosphere on bikes with modern caps, gaudy pants and, in the case of Bottom, a steel barbecue on which he cooks fast food. The scene in which they cover from the transformed weaver becomes a slow-motion ballet of hilarious double-takes. And for once *Pyramus and Thisbe* does not disappoint.

That is largely because Bottom's doublet and hose and even-changing wigs suggest that he cannot decide if he is Barrymore's Hamlet or Irving's Richard III. It is also because Thisbe becomes a dwarfish geisha, a naked Wall forlornly sheds loam, and Lion (or, here, Dragon) is played by a former Sumo wrestler called Ofuji. When this man-mountain removes his mask and reassures the ladies that he is Snug the joiner, he becomes twice, thrice as menacing. It is a wonderfully funny bit of business in a magnificently inventive production.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Kayoko Shiraishi as Titania, Goro Daimon as Bottom, in Yukio Ninagawa's stunning production at the Mermaid

## It works like a dream without costumes, too

Barrie Rutter's splendid company, Northern Broadside, returned on Monday from a successful tour of Brazil to give a single performance at the Bankside Globe — and when Rutter's Oberon walked on stage for the second half, in his black coat, pinned with coloured favours and a flowery hat topped with pheasant feathers, he was rewarded with cheers from groundlings and galleries alike. He smiled almost sheepishly, recognising that it was the entrance of the coat and hat that had earned the applause.

British Airways managed to lose the company's three cases of costumes somewhere between Rio and Heathrow, and the cast were obliged to perform in the clothes they arrived in. So Lysander and Demetrius looked more alike than usual in T-shirts sporting the company's logo, a Yorkshire boar, and the mechanicals became fairies by changes of stance and motion alone.

The costumes arrived just in time for the ass's headress, a sort of pixie hood with ears, to be fitted on to Peter Gunn's Bottom, where it made him look not so much like a vile thing — although fairy aesthetics may be different from ours — as ridiculously self-satisfied in his ignorance. "Lead him to my bower," commands Ishia Bennison's Titania in her earthiest, hungriest tones, and Gunn is borne off backwards on a trolley, complaisant and complacent to the end.

has already proved itself an admirable arena for soliloquy, and Rutter's production suggests that it may also become a theatre unrivalled for rumbustious comedy. The rapport that springs up between the actors and audience is astonishing. It does not build up, it is there from the start, and the only theatrical equivalent is the very best of community pantomime. When Lysander thrusts Hermia away with a "Get you gone, you dwarf!", the audience utters a mock-disapproving "Ohh!", and it lets out a sigh of pleasure when John Gully's Demetrius, speaking with great tenderness, tells of his recovered love for Helena.

These responses come served with irony but there is nothing self-conscious about the audience's bursts of laughter, relishing both the comedy in the text and the comical tableaux and vocal inflection that director and cast create from this. The evening is larded with happy jokes, the lullabies, the mechanicals' reluctant to break from a tight line, Bottom overhauling Duke Theseus with literary expertise. Helena and Hermia did not always have the measure of this well-known yet unfamiliar shape of theatre, but this is a technical matter that actors will learn. The gentleness entering into Rutter's voice when talking of the natural world suggests that even a whisper might carry to the upper gallery of this good-hearted theatre, brand new but already an old friend.

They had to perform in clothes they came in

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This round O of a theatre JEREMY KINGSTON

## Give me a break, Mr Spielberg

Geoff Brown on a season that unearths forgotten film scripts

In the beginning was the word, both in life and the movies. Many films get no further than the words. The script the writer slaved over lies beautifully typed but stays on the shelf, unproduced. As far as the public is concerned, the script never existed. Until now: for a new initiative by the British Film Institute, the Script Factory, is about to unfold, offering professional public readings of British film scripts awaiting the kiss of life. *The Times* is one of the sponsors.

Most readings will take place at London's October Gallery. Admission costs £10, rather more than a West End cinema ticket, though supper is thrown in, plus the chance to make a movie in your head.

Charlotte Macleod, the organiser, has arranged similar events in New York, where every waiter has a script ready to foist on a producer dining out. There is no shortage of material in Britain either: films that never got made far outnumber those that do.

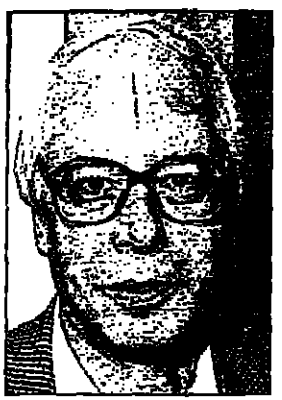
Established writers fall by the wayside just as often as writers eager to make their mark: having a masterly script by Harold Pinter did nothing to help Joseph Losey to bring *Proust* to the screen. In the Script Factory season, Royal Court playwright Nick Grosso is offering his first cinema project,

*Ruff Cuts*. Allan Scott, Nicolas Roeg's collaborator, has gone into the file cabinet for *The Practical Heart*. And Christopher Hampton will be waiting to hear what *Nostramo* sounds like under its director-in-waiting, Hugh Hudson.

Conrad's novel *Nostramo* has been spectacularly unlucky in its journey to the screen. Losey, uncrowned king of the unmade film, tried to mount a version in the 1950s. Thirty years later, David Lean got going with a Hampton script, but delays and worries over Lean's health hastened the project's cancellation. After Lean died, Hampton reworked his script for Hudson; that script, too, is now stalled over funding.

As well as being fun for the public, the readings are aimed at film-makers, backers, agents — anyone who could help the scripts to move off the page. In some cases success will come too late for the writer: David Mercer, who adapted Wyndham Lewis's black comedy *The Snooty Baronet* for Losey in 1968, died 16 years ago. We may not be able to get Richard Burton for the baronet but Richard Harris, another vintage casting suggestion, is still available. Any takers?

The Script Factory opens on Sept 25 at the October Gallery, 24 Old Gloucester Street, London WC1 (0171-580 1052).



Movie hopefuls: Christopher Hampton and Allan Scott

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## POP 1

The Pet Shop Boys go a touch South American on their fine new album, *Bilingual*



## POP 2

... while Neneh Cherry will be hoping to put the resounding flop of *Homebrew* behind her with *Man*

## THE ARTS



## POP 3

Travelling Without Moving is Jamiroquai's attempt to broaden their acid-jazz image



## POP 4

... and R.E.M. find a new lease of magic in the potent brew of *New Adventures in Hi-Fi*

POP ALBUMS: Pet Shop Boys finally get funky; Neneh Cherry takes on James Brown — David Sinclair becomes a slave to the rhythm

## Shopping till they bop

## PET SHOP BOYS

*Bilingual* (Parlophone 8 53102)  
With the return to traditional rock 'n' roll values by the current wave of Britpop bands, the 1990s synth-pop duos who were supposed to usher in a brave new world of pop without guitars have become an endangered species.

However, Pet Shop Boys have risen to the challenge with an album of innovation and unusual charm. The most obvious change is a welcome shift away from the one-beat-fits-all, paper-bag snare sound in favour of a variety of South American-style rhythms. On *Discotheque* and *Single* the massed percussion effects conjure the atmosphere of a Brazilian carnival, while on *Electricity* the Boys successfully locate a funk groove for the first time in a long career.

The melodies of *Se A Vida É (That's The Way Life Is)* and *The Survivors* have a genuine sparkle, and the words are written from a much more heartfelt perspective: "Come outside and feel the morning sun... Life is much more simple when you're young."

They have always been clever, but this has got soul too.

## NENEH CHERRY

*Man* (Hut/Virgin 7243 8 41981)  
NENEH CHERRY's last album, *Homebrew*, failed even to breach the Top 25, but the

inclusion of last year's global hit single, *7 Seconds* (with Youssou N'Dour), will be enough to ensure that *Man* enjoys considerably greater success, and thankfully it is a much livelier collection.

Cherry toughs her way through a variety of musical settings, convincingly enough for the most part. The rap elements that she deployed on her early hits have been ditched in favour of a more conventional singing style. She pastiches James Brown's ballad formula on *Woman* (a gritty riposte to Brown's classic *It's A Man's Man's Man's World*), and hollers through the trip-hop murk of *Together Now*, a collaboration with Tricky built on an amazingly propulsive cross-rhythmic riff.

The cod-flamenco guitar arrangement of *Golden Ring* strikes a more reflective tone, while a stripped-down, fractured-rhythm version of Marvin Gaye's *Trouble Man* provides the perfect vehicle for her 1990s homiegirl attitude.

Quibbles would have to include a ponderous heavy rocker called *Koochi* and the fact that the blindingly obvious descending sequence from *7 Seconds* keeps popping up with disconcerting frequency.

JAMIROQUAI  
*Travelling Without Moving* (Sony SP 4839992)  
HAVING established themselves as the undisputed kings

of the acid-jazz scene with their first two albums, Jamiroquai have made a determined attempt to broaden their appeal on *Travelling Without Moving*. The old fireworks are still in evidence on *Use the Force*, where horns, wah-wah guitar and a rippling barrage of Latin percussion chunder away behind Jay Kay's jazzy vocals. But more typical is the easy-going disco-funk of *Alright*, while *Cosmic Girl* owes more to the crossover pop of ELO or Level 42 than it does to the serious jazz-fusion influences of Stevie Wonder or Herbie Hancock.

Other efforts to extend their range, including a sprightly reggae tune (*Drifting Along*) and a couple of mature soul ballads (*Everyday* and *Spend a Lifetime*), are somewhat undermined by the aimless didgeridoo noodling which dominates *Didjerama* and the drifting instrumental *Digital Vibrations*, numbers which suggest that *Travelling Without Moving* is a title that could come back to haunt them.

R.E.M.  
*New Adventures in Hi-Fi* (Warner Bros. 9362-46320)  
ALTHOUGH not as prolific as their labelmates Prince and Neil Young, R.E.M. are pushing ahead at a surprising clip for a superstar band at their time of life — with outstanding results.

Written and recorded for the



Water boys: Pet Shop Boys and, er, pets get into the swim with an album of "innovation and unusual charm" plus some South American rhythms

most part during the hectic whirl of last year's ill-fated *Monster* tour, *New Adventures in Hi-Fi* is a long, rich and well-rounded collection that sounds anything but made-on-the-hoof. Never too obvious or too odd, it is an album which manages to invest all manner of arrangements with an unmistakable aura of magic, from the hefty guitar riffing of *Departure* to

the cheesy, one-finger organ and piano lines of *How The West Was Won And Where It Got Us*.

As ever, Michael Stipe hints at vaguely profound thoughts, while taking care not to state his case too baldly. "This fame thing, I don't get it," he announces with a gloriously wistful flourish in *E-Bow The Letter*, after piling an avalanche of half-spoken lyrics on

to a melody as haunting as any in the group's songbook.

Whether you take your cup of R.E.M. with straight acoustic guitar (as on *New Strange Leger*, a twist of strange industrial noise (*Undertow*) or a full-bore dose of war-toms (*The Wake-Up Bomb*), the flavour at the core of this album is a constant delight.

David Sinclair interviews R.E.M. in *The Times* next Friday.

## TOP TEN ALBUMS

- 1 Jagged Little Pill... Alanis Morissette (Maverick)
- 2 Moseley Shoals... Ocean Colour Scene (MCA)
- 3 Coming Up... Suede (Nude)
- 4 The Smurfs Go Pop!... The Smurfs (EMI TV)
- 5 Older... George Michael (Virgin)
- 6 (What's The Story) Morning Glory?... Oasis (Creation)
- 7 The Score... Fugees (Columbia)
- 8 Recurring Dream... Crowded House (Capitol)
- 9 Free Peace Sweet... Dodgy (A&M)
- 10 No Code... Pearl Jam (Epic)

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## Everything's changed — forever?

The Boo Radleys' new album marks a radical departure from the group's previous output of mushy melancholia

The story so far. Sice and Martin are childhood friends, dreaming of pop stardom. Martin has manic depressive tendencies, and wants fame to avenge his bullying school teachers. Sice is a cheery soul, and wants to say "Thank you very much New York, goodnight" while being rushed from the stage by his minders. They form a band called the Boo Radleys. Martin writes the songs, and Sice sings them. Their first album, *Everything's Alright Forever*, is a slice of skewed acid loveliness that gets largely dismissed.

Undeterred, they release the tirelessly inventive dub-pop-rock *Giant Steps* a year and a half later, which gradually grows on the press and public alike until it's voted Album of the Year by *Select* magazine, and sells enough for the band to buy smart new suits. A year and a half later, they release 1995's national anthem, *Wake Up Boo!* and the album, *Wake Up*, which is full of melancholic pop and goes straight in at No 1. Martin and Sice are suddenly famous. There are teenage girls, who scream on cue; there is champagne, which is drunk with much relish. Their faces appear on *Smash Hits* stickers.

"It was just as silly as you imagine it, if not sillier," Sice giggles. "Appearing on kids' TV with huge dancing tomatoes. Doing the Radio 1 Roadshow with Simon Mayo dressed in a foam rubber

sumo-wrestler's body." "Yeah, but that was the good stuff," Martin chips in. "We really liked that. It's the serious things that are a drag: I had a journalist from Belgium testing me on my genres this morning. He'd say 'Dub; now who is your favourite dub artist? Okay, yes, now, acid jazz; who is your favourite acid jazz artist? And European trance? And Bulgarian folk?' It was like doing some pop star exam — halfway through I started to feel really panicky that I hadn't revised."

You can see where the Belgian journalist's confusion arose, however, when you surrender your ears to the Boo Radleys' new album, *C'mon Kids*. The fevered eclecticism will shock those who only know the Boo Radleys for the Britpop/Motown of *Wake Up Boo!* With *C'mon Kids*, the Boo Radleys have returned to their roots: contrary sound alchemists at least four steps ahead of their peers. *C'mon Kids* veers from the Pinball Wizard pyro-



CAITLIN MORAN

technics of *What's in the Box* to the Simon and Garfunkel finger-picking of *New Brighton Promenade*, to the scuffed dub of *Fortunate Sons* and several songs that sound like nothing else on earth.

"Well, I'm fed up of hearing records where you can guess what the next chord's gonna be; guess what the middle-eight's gonna be," Martin explains. "Music should scare you. Chords should jump out on you. The chorus should be a surprise." And he isn't afraid to go out as far as the Earth's atmosphere will let him. Take, for instance, the last two chapters of the album — *Ride the Tiger* and *One Last Hurrah*. It's been a long time since an album bowed out on such a boat-burning high: *Ride the Tiger* is Martin's apology to his ex-girlfriend for his sybaritic lifestyle, and inability to quit the bright lights of London to live in Preston with her.

"I could get by on being alive but having no life," Martin explains. "But I don't want to miss a trick/Don't want to regret anything/I want to stand next to the first/Take it higher/Ride the tiger." Your spine will curl up like a retractable tape-measure when you hear it: wildly distorting guitars are layered upon vocal harmonies and edge-of-sound samples until the whole thing goes white-out.

As the last notes fade, *One Last Hurrah* steamrollers up to full volume — a thudding, growling sound, like a pressing plant, with Sice riffing away like a Hindu priest singing devotionals. A wrenching, sickening chord-change takes the song into a narcotic dream-world, hazy and sweet, with Sice murmuring "One last hurrah" — at which point Martin starts on a 4am guitar solo: a red-eyed, full-on burst of frazzled, keening inspiration.

"I'll be surprised if all the fans of *Wake Up Boo!* like the album," Martin says, with a wry smile. "We get a different set of fans for each album anyway, but if we can just bring a couple of *Wake Up* fans over and convert them to the strong stuff, I'll be pleased. This is the kind of thing people should be listening to. Mind you, I would say that, wouldn't I?"

● The album, *C'mon Kids*, is released by Creation Records on Monday. The Boo Radleys host a "happening" at the Kilburn National in London next Thursday.

## JAZZ ALBUMS

## The sweet and the power

## GERRY MULLIGAN

*The Complete Pacific Jazz Recordings of the Gerry Mulligan Quartet with Chet Baker* (Pacific Jazz CDP 7243 5 38263 2 2)

AS the admirably detailed liner notes to this lovingly packaged four-CD set remind us, the celebrated West Coast pianoless quartet led by the young Gerry Mulligan from 1952 onwards "merely whispered where other bands bellowed". Such restraint is frequently seen as the hallmark of the jazz played in the area at the time, certainly, words such as "delicacy", "light", and "sweet" abound in most descriptions of the work of one of the most enduringly popular front-line pairings in the music.

Prolonged exposure to this comprehensive set, though — it comprises not only the initial informal 1952 sessions and the subsequent live material from LA's the Haig, but also the 1957 New York "reunion" recordings, plus collaborations with alto player Lee Konitz and singer Annie Ross — reveals both the tasteful muscularity of Mulligan's baritone playing and the subtly fiery flair of Baker's trumpet, each the more effective for being so tastefully concealed. The neat precision of their solo lines, rising naturally from Mulligan's airy, deceptively simple-sounding arrangements, still renders their group sound one of the most distinctive — and unequivocally enjoyable — in jazz.

## TOM BROWNE

*Another Shade of Browne* (Hip Hop Essence HIBD 8011)  
KNOWN as "Mr Jamaica Funk" for his 1980s dance-floor-friendly trumpet style, Tom Browne re-emerged a couple of years ago with *Mo' Jamaica Funk*. This album, though, emphasises his indebtedness to the more straightforward jazz recorded for the Blue Note label by such trumpet giants as Freddie Hubbard and Lee Morgan in the 1950s and 1960s.

While not the most fluent of soloists — he specialises in judiciously placed squirts and trills rather than in long-lined improvisations — Browne has nevertheless produced an infectiously peppy album thanks to the sterling rhythm-section work of relative veterans, bassist Ron Carter and drummer Idris Muhammad.

CHRIS PARKER

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## ALPHABETICAL GUIDE TO DEGREE VACANCIES: ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

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TODAY'S listing of degree vacancies in engineering and technology shows that there are still plenty of openings for students in clearing. More courses are available than when the subjects were last listed, and many will remain open until the start of term.

The Times service is the only national newspaper listing of degree vacancies updated and published daily. It runs on a three-day cycle until September 13, with engineering and technology courses appearing on Tuesdays and Fridays, science subjects on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and arts and social science subjects on Mondays and Thursdays.

An asterisk shows courses are part of modular schemes, available in a variety of combinations. All the others are identified by the codes used in the Ucas handbook.

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## EDUCATION

John O'Leary reports on the problems facing staff, and two men who gave up teaching describe the pressures

## Why are our teachers leaving?

Thousands of teachers have been trying to come to terms with life outside the classroom as their former colleagues returned to school this week. Many had reached retirement age, but three quarters have put a premature end to a career they saw as a life-long vocation.

The image of teaching as a secure, even sedate, occupation with short working hours and long holidays is receding fast. The squeeze on state school budgets has accelerated the pace of early retirements, but the most striking change has been the rise in stress-related illness.

The condition makes inroads into every profession, but the figures for teaching — and for head teachers in particular — are extraordinary. More staff left the profession because of "ill-infirmity" than reached the age of retirement last year.

In 1979 fewer than 1,400 teachers retired early through ill-health. By 1995, the figure had reached almost 6,000, a quarter of all those leaving the profession, and would have been higher if the Teachers Pension Agency had not tightened up the interpretation of its rules. The agency rejected 10 per cent of applications, compared with the normal 3 per cent. The attrition rate is such that some private insurers are reluctant to accept teachers for "living cover" policies. The Teachers Superannuation Fund, already more than £1.5 billion in debt, is in more trouble year by year.

Most of those joining the stampede from the classroom cite stress as the underlying reason. Medical certificates may list more conventional illnesses, but the extra demands on today's teachers produce pressures that many cannot withstand. Stress may be a Nineties state of mind that would once not have been

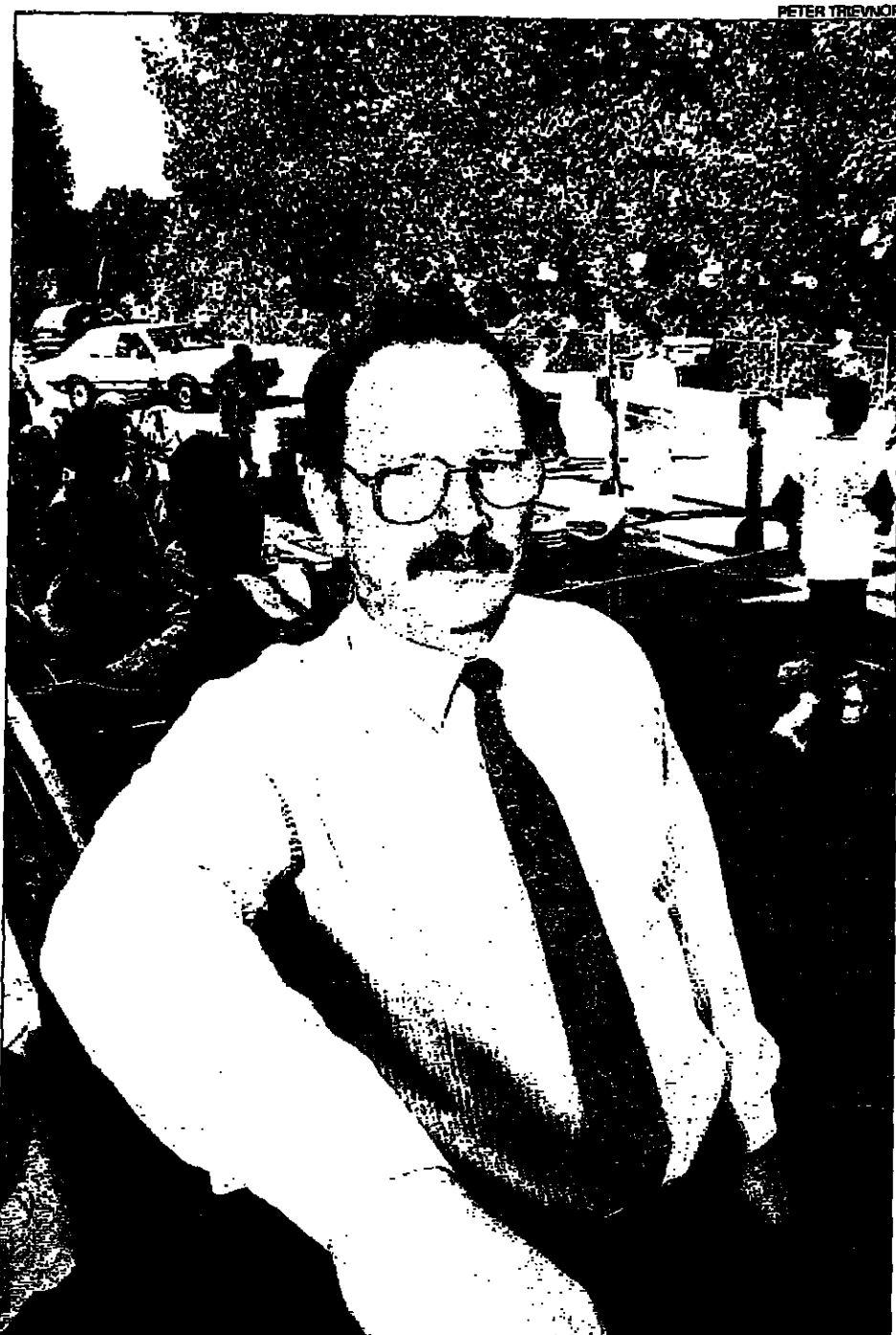
accepted as a career-threatening condition. But it is equally certain that teaching is not what it was when many of the victims joined the profession. Extra workload, worsening discipline problems, tension generated by inspections and heightened expectations by parents and senior staff are all raising the classroom temperature.

In a report on the subject, academics at Oxford Brookes University said that the strains of the job were causing heart attacks and strokes. "Panic attacks, sleeplessness, broken relationships, excessive drinking and smoking, loss of confidence and breakdowns are not reportable industrial illnesses," the survey said. "But they are as devastating to the teacher as broken arms, amputations and poisoning are to other workers."

Head teachers, weighed down by extra responsibilities since taking control of school budgets, prone to conflict with parents and governors, worried about league tables and inspection reports, are under even more pressure. Their deputies are becoming increasingly reluctant to apply for the top jobs.

In the teaching profession as a whole, more than 150,000 people have left prematurely in the past ten years, three times the number reaching retirement age. Applications for ill-health retirement have risen by almost a quarter in two years.

What is worse, the message seems to be affecting the people who should form the next generation of teachers. Though the starting salary is relatively attractive, applications for training are falling as the graduate employment market begins to recover. Young people are asking themselves whether it is worth joining a profession under pressure, and growing numbers are deciding that it is not.



Graham Went, Headmaster, Edinburgh Primary School, Walthamstow: someone had to go

## Pressure that led the head to quit

UNTIL Ofsted's inspectors arrived at my school, I had never considered giving up my headship. It was hard work and long hours, certainly challenging, but it was a job that I enjoyed.

Everything changed when the school was found to require "special measures" (Ofsted jargon for failure). The pressure, the workload and the staff demoralisation that ensued were amazing. I gave it a few months to see how parents and governors would react, and they were extremely supportive, but by the turn of the year I came to the conclusion that the school needed someone who didn't carry the baggage of the past.

People have said it was a courageous decision, but it merely seemed sensible if the school was to get out of special measures. The parents were confused because the report didn't match their experience of the school. But whatever I might think of the inspection system, the school has to go forward.

I was not criticised personally, but it is implicit when a school is put under special measures that the responsibility lies with the head teacher. It seems part of the hidden agenda that someone has to go.

I had intended to leave at Easter, but I agreed to stay on for another term so a permanent successor could be appointed. It meant 65-hour weeks with weekend working. Without the support of my wife and six children, it would have been difficult indeed. As it was, I didn't crack up, but that is not to say I could go on indefinitely without its having a damaging effect on my health. Now I want a break: I need time to consider what I want to do. It would be nice to have a job that you don't bring home, but I haven't ruled out a return to teaching or even headship at some time in the future.

In the short term, supply teaching might be good for me. After 20 years in the same school, as deputy and then head, there is a danger of tunnel vision. Another suggestion has been to train as an Ofsted inspector. But would it feel as though I was joining the enemy?

JOHN MILLER

GRAHAM WENT

## Too much work, too little praise — I've had enough



John Miller: a changed atmosphere

I HAD been thinking of giving up teaching for two or three years when my parents' illnesses and the fact that the school was seeking redundancies to cope with a budget cut triggered my decision.

Teaching is simply not the same job I came into 13 years ago. The pressure has increased enormously and there is no time to develop a relationship with the children or to bring a bit of individuality to the subject.

I taught French and German at Moorside High School, a large comprehensive in Stoke-on-Trent, where I have spent the past nine years. At 41, I had reached the top of the classroom teachers' pay scale and, as a single man, I have no complaints about the money — £21,000 a year. But I have

felt the stress of the job more and more in the past few years as there has been more emphasis on meeting targets and running the school as a business.

The atmosphere has changed. There never seems to be any praise; and there were always extra things that I should have been doing. In my own subject, for example, teaching methods are more and more laid down in a politically correct way. There is no fun. Lessons must be conducted in the language being taught and it is frowned upon if you lapse back into English to make sure that the children understand what you are saying.

The workload has certainly increased. When I first came into teaching, you would get 40 minutes or an hour's break at lunchtime when

people might have a game of cards in the staffroom. Now most teachers do not go to the staffroom; they are too busy preparing afternoon lessons or dealing with pupils.

On top of that, I was probably doing a weekly average of between ten and 12 hours' work at home. I keep one night a week free for the choir and operatic society to which I belong, but work was occupying more and more of my time.

Colleagues were very supportive because they know the pressures of the job. I do not know what the future will hold — I would like to use my languages in an office setting, but I will clean toilets if necessary. I don't expect to go back to teaching.

## A nation forgetting how to walk

Susan Elkin on the dangers of raising a sedentary generation

HARDLY a month goes by without the publication of another report telling us what we know — that schoolchildren are unhealthy and becoming more so all the time. For reasons that are many and various, they now eat so much "junk", it seems, that many of them are reaching the paradoxical position of being both malnourished and overweight.

Combine that with the fact that few children are encouraged — or even allowed — to walk or cycle anywhere and you have an ill-health time-bomb ticking away. By the time today's schoolchildren are in their forties, we shall be a very sickly nation — unless we can stop the rot.

Schools could do a lot more to promote sensible exercise. And I don't mean the flamboyant and noisy razzmatazz of aerobic exercise to thumping pop music or "working out" in expensive

gymnasiums, either. No, I have something much simpler in mind. Why aren't schools simply "selling" walking? Doctors say that it is the best possible exercise. Walking is steady and continuous, it helps with weight control, it is companionable and it costs nothing. In fact, it saves money and resources: the walker saves transport expenditure and is also, in a wider context, environmentally responsible, because everyone who walks, as opposed to getting into a powered vehicle, is helping to reduce fuel consumption.

Children used to walk almost everywhere. Now, fewer than 10 per cent arrive at school as unaccompanied pedestrians. And it isn't many more who go to school on foot even in the company of an adult. Witness the dangerous congestion caused by cars near school gates. Yet most British children live less than a mile from their schools.

The secondary school I attended was about half a mile up a steep hill. Some buses stopped at the bottom and it was tempting to hop on a second bus for the last lap. Woe betide us if our headmistress saw us. As healthy young girls, we had, she told us sternly, to walk, freeing the buses for older people going further. Many teachers' homes are still quite near their schools. They could set an example, and encourage parents to do the same. But, mostly, they don't. When I taught in a school about 20 minutes' walk across the town, I always walked — to the incredulous amusement of the pupils as they sailed past in their parents' cars. No wonder we are breeding an apparently legless generation.

Britain is riddled with ancient rights of way, even in towns. Considering how densely populated these areas are, it amazes me what a short distance from home or school most of us have to go to get onto a path. Why aren't schools using some of their PE or extracurricular time to take children out onto those paths? Children would learn so much about the natural environment.

When I took a party of 25 urban schoolgirls on a five-mile foot-path walk, starting and finishing at school, every one of them was on terra incognita for much of the time. Yet at no point were we more than a mile or two from most of their homes. We named trees, spotted wildflowers, learnt a bit about map-reading and got a good afternoon's healthy exercise.

The other day, I met an Oxford Classics graduate who told me, shamefacedly, that having always lived in cities she cannot identify a primrose. At the other end of the scale, I recently asked a low-ability class to draw some daffodils to illustrate Wordsworth's poem. They couldn't. They hadn't a clue what a daffodil was.

While we condone the fashionable idea that exercise has to be wildly exciting, more and more of our children will continue to opt out. Munching their crisps and slurping sugary drinks as they slump before the television set, they are getting fatter in body but narrower in outlook by the minute.



## Secrets of a comprehensive success

Malbank beat Haileybury and Stowe in A-level rankings even though it raised its pupil numbers. Bruce Kemble explains how

Displayed proudly on the wall of the headmaster's study is the school motto, with all its echoes of Margaret Thatcher's triumphant urgings during the Falklands crisis: "Gaudeamus" (Let us rejoice). The head, Allan Kettle, has much cause for rejoicing as he shows visitors a recent award from Oxford University which will be given annually to a sixth-former in recognition of the school's "outstanding record" in providing the university with first-class students.

He is also pleased with his achievement of raising the number of pupils from 850 to 1,216, an increase of nearly 50 per cent during his five years there. This startling proof of the school's popularity is illustrated by parents' putting their children's names down for entry at 11 when they are only two.

Yet this is not an ancient public school, or even a grammar school, but a state comprehensive where 7 per cent of children qualify for free school meals. It is Malbank School in Nantwich, Cheshire, which was the leading comprehensive in The Times A-level rankings. Its high position astonished John Rae, the veteran public school head, who asked on this page: "How does a comprehensive such as Malbank School in Cheshire, for example, so easily beat Haileybury and Stowe?" Nearly three quarters of Malbank's 149 candidates gained four passes and 12 won five or six A grades.

Mr Kettle, 45, says: "The number of youngsters getting five grade As has increased marginally and the average points score has increased significantly. But at the lower end, without any change in admissions policy and still entering every student for the examinations, we are now down to only one candidate who didn't get any A levels at all." He is particularly delighted that in the lower-ability range, pupils do not drop out.

Had the council waited, the school would be a grammar

they're clever kids who'd have done well anywhere," he says. "All the evidence shows that that is simply not the case."

Barbara Shaw, 46, whose sons Andrew and Alexander go there, agrees with him and recalls the days when Malbank's rivalry with nearby Brine Lees school, an 11-16 comprehensive school, was serious. "Seven years ago, people used to say, 'Does my child go to Brine Lees or Malbank?' Now there's no question. Malbank is a very happy school. The children are very disciplined, the teachers have expectations."

Lucy O'Grady, 18, is the daughter of a tax inspector and lives in Crewe. She got four A-level passes and is now off to read psychology at

Sheffield University. She remembered the time when she "worked off her knees" in her bedroom and says: "I knew I could do my GCSEs and I didn't want to end up in a checkout in Woolies."

Mrs Shaw's description of the school as "disciplined" is echoed by Mr Kettle's pride in the pupils' behaviour each Remembrance Sun-

day, when the whole school achieves a minute's silence. Confounding those critics who say it is expecting too much of the modern child and that "20 seconds is all that can be hoped for".

He says: "We sing Abide with Me. We lower the flag. We lay the wreath. We do it with absolute confidence that it will be all right. It's the vicar



Allan Kettle of Malbank School: "outstanding record" in providing Oxford with first-class students

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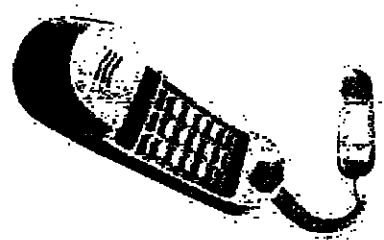
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We wish to add to the lecturing team that is offering the Legal Practice course in full and part-time modes within this wide-ranging and successful Department in the City of London by making an appointment, at Senior Lecturer level, to take a leading role in the teaching of Business Law and Practice and to contribute to one or more of our LPC options.

If you are qualified as a solicitor with recent practical experience in a commercial firm, are familiar with the use of information technology in legal practice and have an interest in the teaching of practical legal skills we would like to hear from you.

For an informal discussion, please telephone Frank Webb (Head of Department of Law) on 0171 320 1501 or Jennifer Mills (Legal Practice Course Director) on 0171 320 1509.

For further details and an application form please send a self addressed envelope quoting the above reference to: Personnel Department, London Guildhall University, 133 Whitechapel High Street, London E1 7QA.

Closing date for receipt of completed application forms is Tuesday 17th September 1996.

Apply online via the Monster Board <http://www.monster.co.uk>

**LONDON GUILDHALL UNIVERSITY**

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## POSTS

**CITA**

**CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITY**

**Safety Audit Lecturer/ Professional**

(Remunerative Package: £6,000 per month)

The Construction Industry Training Authority, which is the counterpart of the CITB in the UK, is seeking for an experienced safety auditor to develop safety auditing training courses for the Hong Kong construction industry. The main duties will involve developing course syllabus together with preparation of training materials and conduction of the proposed course.

Applicants should have lecturing experience on top of an in-depth knowledge and hands-on experience of an established safety audit system comparable to the existing systems such as CHASE, PSM or ISRS (ICRS most preferred). The applicant should be a veteran safety professional with appropriate exposure to the construction environment.

The successful candidate will be offered a six months renewable contract with a monthly salary of about £4,000, plus cash allowance equivalent to 33% salary and 20% of salary as gratuity at end of contract. A return air ticket will be provided.

To apply please write with full details of your career to date to: The Administration Manager, Construction Industry Training Authority, 95 Yue Kwong Road, Aberdeen, Hong Kong. Please mark application code (96/LSA)-91M on the envelope.

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You must be at least 18 years old, a high school graduate or equivalent, be in good health and pass our admission tests, which will be held in London in November 1996. We qualify our students carefully, because we are dedicated to professional training rather than quick money.

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P.O. Box 680, Conway, Dept. 110  
South Carolina 29525-0680, USA  
Telex: (803) 397-3776

## UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

**St CATHERINE'S COLLEGE OXFORD**

**Bursar**

The College wishes to appoint an experienced and responsible administrator to the new full-time post of Bursar. The successful candidate will be elected to a Fellowship of the College, which carries membership of the Governing Body. The salary will be negotiable according to age and experience up to £33,767 (under review) plus allowances, if appropriate.

The Bursar will work under the direction of the Governing Body of the College, and in day-to-day consultation with the Master and College Officers. His/her role will be to provide efficient and cost-effective supervision of all aspects of resource management and to service the key committees of the College concerned with financial and domestic management. The main areas of responsibility will comprise Finance and Accounts (excluding investment); Personnel; Domestic Services; Buildings and Grounds; Conference Business; College Committees and Administration. Essential prerequisites for the post are the ability to communicate effectively both in person and on paper, and a good understanding of the educational purposes of the College, leading to a capacity to think strategically about the College's financial position and to respond effectively to the needs of staff, students and conference delegates.

Further particulars may be obtained from the General Office, St Catherine's College, Oxford OX3 1UJ; fax (01865) 274788. The closing date for applications is 23 September 1996.

The College exists to promote excellence in education and research, and is an equal opportunities employer.

## COURSES

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## POSTS

**MALVERN GIRLS' COLLEGE**

**Appointment of HEAD**

The Council of Malvern Girls' College invites applications for the position of HEAD, to date from September 1997.

Applicants should possess the qualities of leadership, courage and academic experience required to guide the College into the 21st Century.

Those interested should write in confidence, within 14 days, enclosing a curriculum vitae and the names of three referees, to:

**Air Commodore B.W. Opie, F.I.P.D., F.I.Mgt.**  
The Clerk to the Governors,  
**MALVERN GIRLS' COLLEGE,**  
9 Avenue Road  
**MALVERN**  
Worcestershire WR14 3AR.

## UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

**UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD**

University Offices

**Administrative Officer**

Academic-related Administrative Grade ALC2:  
Salary £16,628 - £21,519 per annum (under review)

Applications are invited for this post in the Academic Division of the University's Central Administration. The successful candidate will join a small team which deals chiefly with academic staffing (including all aspects of the appointment and the conditions of service of academic staff). Applicants must have the ability to handle large amounts of detail accurately and to take a range of staff, and have an interest in the development of academic policy; they should preferably be graduates with some relevant experience in higher education administration. A personnel qualification is not essential. This is a five-year appointment which may be renewed, subject to review, for further periods of five years.

Further particulars, including details of how to apply, may be obtained from the Deputy Registrar (Administrative), University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD (tel: 01865 280479/270003). The closing date is 7 October 1996.

The University is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

## POSTS

**Girls' Public Day School Trust**

**BIRKENHEAD HIGH SCHOOL**

Nearly 1000 Girls (aged 3 - 18)

Applications invited for the post of

**HEAD**

which will become vacant from the 1st September 1997 when the present Headmistress, Mrs. Kathleen Irving, retires.

The school participates in the Government's Assisted Places Scheme.

For the particulars and an application form write to:

The Secretary  
The Girl's Public Day School Trust  
26 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AN  
Closing date for applications  
Friday, 20th September 1996

**The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**

Applications are invited for the post of an English Language teacher at the Ministry of Interior, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Reference will be given to high academic qualifications and experience. Terms and conditions will be reviewed during interviews. Applicants should forward their C.V.'s and present themselves at:

**THE ROYAL EMBASSY OF SAUDI ARABIA**  
30 CHARLES STREET  
LONDON W1X 7PM  
on Monday 9th September 1996 at 12 Noon.

For further information contact:  
Tel. No. 0171 917 3413

**WESTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL CROYDON**

HEADTEACHER J.V. STRIBBLING M.A.

Age Range 11-16 years SALARY £20,000 p.a.  
N.O.R. 634 Initially one year contract

**BURSAR/BUSINESS MANAGER**

Westwood is a highly successful girls' school serving a multi-cultural community in Upper Norwood. The governors are seeking to appoint a school Bursar/Business Manager.

For further details of the post and the school please write to Mrs B Senghast at Westwood High School, Sargeant Road, Upper Norwood SE19 3UG.  
Telephone: 0181 653 1661/246

Closing date for applications: 27th September.  
Croydon Education Authority is committed to Equal Opportunities.

## INDEPENDENT EDUCATION

**MERCHISTON CASTLE SCHOOL**

**Open Morning**

Saturday 21st September 1996  
10.00am - 12.30pm

BOYS' BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL. AGES 10-18  
COLLINGTON, EDINBURGH TELEPHONE 0131 441 3771

**DEVONSHIRE HOUSE PREPARATORY SCHOOL**

The School is for children from 3 to 13, and the Oak Tree Nursery takes children from 2½. For further information please contact the Admissions' Secretary, 69 Fitzjohn's Avenue, Hampstead, London NW3 6PB. Tel: 0171-435 1918.







## RACING: HUNTINGDON SETS SIGHTS ON CUP CAMPAIGN FOR QUEEN'S FLUENT YORK WINNER

## Arabian Story's stamina put to the test

By RICHARD EVANS  
RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE Queen can begin to dream of possible cup glory next year after Arabian Story carried her silks to an easy success in the Sun Life of Canada Garrowby Rated Stakes at York yesterday.

The rapidly improving three-year-old, trained by Lord Huntingdon, turned the valuable 1½-mile handicap into a procession after bursting clear of his ten rivals three furlongs from home. Eased inside the final 75 yards by David Harrison, he won snugly by 2½ lengths in a fast time.

## RICHARD EVANS

Nap: ALPHABET  
(4.10 Kempton Park)Next best: Shuwalikh  
(2.35 Kempton Park)

Thunderer gave Ochoz Ros (16-1) among four York winners yesterday

"I tracked the leaders and for a stride or two had to sit and wait for a gap. When it came by the rail, the horse took off in a couple of strides and won as he liked," Harrison said.

The victory, which came only ten days after Arabian Story had romped home in the "Gentleman's Derby" at Epsom by 11 lengths, had special significance for both his owner and trainer because of links with Garrowby, home of Lord Halifax.

Lord Huntingdon said: "I am particularly pleased and I am sure the Queen will be delighted to have won this race because Charles Halifax married my aunt and the Queen has stayed at Garrowby."



Tycoon Todd, ridden by Peslier, gains plenty of admirers after his impressive winning first appearance from 15 rivals at York yesterday

owby. The Garrowby Stud also bred Shirley Heights, who stands at Sandringham.

Although Arabian Story is entered in the Tote Festival Handicap at Ascot, it will be no surprise to see him tackle a longer trip to test his staying powers. His breeding suggests two miles will suit next year.

"I would be keen to see this year whether he gets a little bit further. It is my feeling he would," Lord Huntingdon added.

Working out how far horses

will stay can make fools of the straight and, although Even Top did not quicken quite as readily as the jockey expected, he still won comfortably by three lengths from Tarnhill in a race record time and will now be aimed at the Champion Stakes.

"I am just pleased to get him back to his right trip. Everybody said he would stay given his breeding but Philip Robinson always believed he had too much speed for 1½ miles. He has won twice at Newmarket,

which suits him because he's a galloper," Tompkins said.

York has been a fine hunting ground during the past month for David Loder and he added to wins with Abou Zouz, Indiscreet and Bianca Nera (who has been supplemented for the Moylagh Stakes on Sunday) with an eye-catching debut by Tycoon Todd in the opening Weatherbys/Hiscox Household Insurance Maiden Stakes.

Despite drifting in the bet-

ting, the newcomer swept clear inside the final quarter mile in the capable hands of Olivier Peslier to provide Edward St George's Lucayan Stud with another success.

St George rates the two-year-old, bought by Charlie Gordon-Watson for \$55,000, alongside Bahamian Bounty, winner of the group one Prix Morny. Tycoon Todd is entered in the Dewhurst Stakes and Racing Post Trophy but is likely to have only one more race this year.

Richard Evans

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Richard Evans

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Richard Evans

## KEMPTON PARK

THUNDERER  
2.05 SUPREME STAR (nap) 3.40 Sergeyev  
2.35 Love Has No Pride 4.10 One So Wonderful  
3.05 Fatal Barari 4.40 Paoljuni

Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.40 WIZARD KING.  
Our Newmarket correspondent: 4.40 ALRAYTH (nap).

## GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

Racecard number Draw at Kempton Park  
Race 1 - 12.15 - 12.30 - 12.45 - 1.00 - 1.15 - 1.30 - 1.45 - 2.00 - 2.15 - 2.30 - 2.45 - 3.00 - 3.15 - 3.30 - 3.45 - 4.00 - 4.15 - 4.30 - 4.45 - 5.00 - 5.15 - 5.30 - 5.45 - 6.00 - 6.15 - 6.30 - 6.45 - 7.00 - 7.15 - 7.30 - 7.45 - 8.00 - 8.15 - 8.30 - 8.45 - 9.00 - 9.15 - 9.30 - 9.45 - 10.00 - 10.15 - 10.30 - 10.45 - 11.00 - 11.15 - 11.30 - 11.45 - 12.00 - 12.15 - 12.30 - 12.45 - 1.00 - 1.15 - 1.30 - 1.45 - 2.00 - 2.15 - 2.30 - 2.45 - 3.00 - 3.15 - 3.30 - 3.45 - 4.00 - 4.15 - 4.30 - 4.45 - 5.00 - 5.15 - 5.30 - 5.45 - 6.00 - 6.15 - 6.30 - 6.45 - 7.00 - 7.15 - 7.30 - 7.45 - 8.00 - 8.15 - 8.30 - 8.45 - 9.00 - 9.15 - 9.30 - 9.45 - 10.00 - 10.15 - 10.30 - 10.45 - 11.00 - 11.15 - 11.30 - 11.45 - 12.00 - 12.15 - 12.30 - 12.45 - 1.00 - 1.15 - 1.30 - 1.45 - 2.00 - 2.15 - 2.30 - 2.45 - 3.00 - 3.15 - 3.30 - 3.45 - 4.00 - 4.15 - 4.30 - 4.45 - 5.00 - 5.15 - 5.30 - 5.45 - 6.00 - 6.15 - 6.30 - 6.45 - 7.00 - 7.15 - 7.30 - 7.45 - 8.00 - 8.15 - 8.30 - 8.45 - 9.00 - 9.15 - 9.30 - 9.45 - 10.00 - 10.15 - 10.30 - 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## TENNIS

# Muster put to flight by Agassi's aggression

FROM DAVID MILLER IN NEW YORK

ANDRE AGASSI has set the US Open Championships alight with a performance against Thomas Muster that was as masterful as his appearance was absurd. He and his manipulative clothing sponsors contrived to make him look like Harpo Marx in sneakers and stolen trousers, but no matter how ridiculous his attire, the ball coming off his racket is undiluted venom.

There is no player in the game who can rise, as Agassi does, from a state of wanton slovenliness to peak performance in a short time almost at will. This year it has sometimes seemed as if he no longer cared about his reputation, yet he produced an astonishing display to win the Olympic gold medal, against Sergi Bruguera, and has now reached the summit of his form, on his favourite cement surface, in time for the semi-finals tomorrow.

In a quarter-final of acute contrast, Muster, physically lean, taut and mean in manner, looked from the start like the destined loser in *Rocky III*. Repeatedly he was knocked to the ground, repeatedly he would climb back to his feet, the perspiration pouring in rivulets off his angular nose and chin, only to be clobbered

Tim Henman, 21, the Britain tennis No 1, has pulled out of the inaugural Bournemouth International Open because of thigh and groin problems. He received painkillers for the injuries during his run to the last 16 at the US Open in New York this week. Henman, expected to rise to a world ranking near 30 on Monday, is also doubtful for Britain's Davis Cup Group Two match against Egypt later this month.

Both players declined to elaborate further on the long-running feud between them over Muster's No 1 ranking in February, or on the relevance to that dispute of the outcome of this match.

The two players had last met in the US Open at the same stage in 1994, when Muster was seeded No 13 and Agassi unseeded. Agassi had beaten him in straight sets and gone on to win the trophy, the second of his three grand-slam titles. Agassi's performance this fortnight has wholly substantiated the thinking behind the United States Tennis Association's adjustment of the seedings, compared with ranking positions, made last year though they handled the issue. Agassi against Sampras or Ivanisevic will make an intriguing final, though Agassi has still to dispose of Chung.

"Michael's strength starts with his speed," Agassi said. "There's not really a sport you can name in which speed isn't a strong weapon, and he has that. He also has anything up to nine game-plans that he will go to if he needs to, so he can come to you with a lot of different strategies."

ever, he doubted whether Sampras or Ivanisevic, the other probable semi-finalists who were playing late last night (BST), could control Agassi in his present condition.

"You have to be very consistent," Muster said, "and that is probably not enough. He is a tremendous returner, probably the best in the world. I am usually the one that is dominating the game, and he dominated me today."

At his best, Agassi is literally flying: taking his shots with both feet off the ground, his open-grip forehand allowing him to delay the direction of his shot until the opponent is committed. Against Muster, he maintained a destructive length that drained the Austrian's energy as surely as if he were pursuing a trio of Kenyans around the running track.

A debilitating psychological aspect of Agassi's game is that he will never look at his opponent between points. Muster, with his bullying demeanour, likes to stare down his opponents, but the more he glared in Agassi's direction, the more he was left with nothing but the sight of Agassi's back, turning away after firing another sizzling winner.

It was therefore a bit of a surprise for Agassi to arrive in the interview room and say that he wished Muster "would look me in the eye when we shake hands." Muster, having been driven at one stage, when trailing 0-2 in the third set, to demand intervention by the referee and umpire to subdue

intimidating shouts mid-point by Agassi acolytes in the players' box, was probably more inclined to poke Agassi in the eye with his racket handle.

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King remains firmly in control of Star Appeal to take the lead in the dressage yesterday

## King reveals star quality to leave field trailing

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

MARY KING'S run of post-Olympic success continued yesterday when she and Star Appeal went into a comfortable lead at the end of a sunlit first day of dressage at the Burghley Horse Trials, sponsored by Pedigree Chum, in Lincolnshire yesterday.

An obedient, flowing test by the 11-year-old gelding has put King four marks ahead of Pippa Funnell on her Blenheim winner, Bits And Pieces. Didier Seguret is in third place on Coeur De Rocker, a noted three-star horse but yet to impress at this level.

King has scarcely put a foot wrong since her disappointing Olympic performance in Atlanta on King William. At Thriestane three weeks ago she won the Scottish championships on Star Appeal. Last weekend at Gatcombe, riding King William, she won her third British Open title.

Star Appeal has been overdue a change of luck. The big, rangy horse missed Bramham three years ago after puncturing the sole of his foot. The next year he broke his near foreleg and was out for six months.

He returned to competition in the summer of 1994, finishing fourth at Burghley. Last year he was shortlisted for the European championships after winning at Punchestown but overreached three weeks before the event. His Badminton debut this spring ended abruptly when he fell at the first fence. At Bramham, in June, King had a second crashing fall when he ran away with her on the cross country.

"He's been unlucky," King said, "but he's fit now and I've got the brakes sorted out." Where most of the riders have expressed concern at the number of difficult fences early on in the course for the cross country tomorrow, King is delighted. "The bigger the better for him."

Funnell and Seguret are less enthusiastic. Burghley is a big step up for the skews Bits And Pieces, and Funnell spent yesterday afternoon walking the course with Mark Phillips, the designer, to plan her route. Seguret will be taking two of the longer, easier routes tomorrow. "Some courses are difficult and some are technical — this is both," he said.

Andrew Nicholson, on Buckley Province, the winner last year and fourth overnight after his best dressage test to date, will be quick to take advantage of any mistakes by the leaders. Nicholson, one of the most effective of cross-country riders, intends to take the direct routes. He and his New Zealand compatriot, Mark Todd, who was 23rd on Kingarrie, both have second rides today.

Several top riders have some catching up to do tomorrow after disappointing tests. Karen Dixon lost valuable marks when her veteran performer, Get Smart, was distracted by the shrill barks from the dog crèche adjacent to the arena.

The most relieved rider yesterday was Rodney Powell with his 1994 Blenheim runner-up, Comic Relief. At Badminton, the ten-year-old gelding spent much of his dressage test on his hind legs. The aptly-named horse had another aberration at Gatcombe last week. Yesterday he was the model of decorum, finishing well in contention in sixth place.

STANDINGS (after first day of dressage): 1, Star Appeal (M King, GB) 45; 2, Bits And Pieces (P Funnell, GB) 41; 3, Coeur De Rocker (D Seguret, FR) 40; 4, Buckley Province (A Nicholson, NZ) 39; 5, Best Seller (M Westbrooke, US) 38; 6, Comic Relief (R Powell, GB) 36.

## SAILING

## Merricks battling to match Lennon

BY EDWARD GORMAN SAILING CORRESPONDENT

AFTER the first six races in the Glenfiddich Melges 24 national championships at Brixham, Mike Lennon, the defending champion on *Raw Hyde*, has established a strong position, with three firsts and two third places, to lead the 24-strong fleet.

At the head of the chasing pack is the 470 Olympic helmsman and silver medal-winner, John Merricks, on *Glenfiddich 3*, who is sailing in his first Melges regatta, with Rob Smith, on *Henri Lloyd Rapid Breathing*, in third.

The 12-race championship, which comes just a month before the Melges European championship in Barcelona, has not attracted as many entries as had been hoped for, but the racing has been close.

Yesterday, in fresh conditions, Lennon showed blistering downwind speed, recovering from a poor start in the third race of the day to finish third after being well down the pack as late as the second leeward mark. Merricks, who like his Olympic partner, Ian Walker, is trying to find the focus for his next big campaign, already appears to be Lennon's most likely challenger, with one first, two seconds and two thirds.

Yesterday he won the first race but was unlucky in the second when his spinnaker became tangled in his jib as he was dropping it. The problem was solved after Sacha Nice, a crewman, climbed the mast to free the sail. Merricks still managed to finish fifth, having dropped back from second.

David Bedford, on *Glenfiddich 1*, retired from the first race after he broke his bowsprit in an incident on the startline with Clive Jacobs, on *Flash Harry*, and Charlie Stobart-Hook, on *Interalpha*. Two others retired from the second race with rudder and traveller problems.

Bedford, who was second to Lennon at Cowes, has made an uncharacteristically poor start, with only one top-five finish, and is lying twelfth overall.

## CYCLING

## Boardman aiming at new peaks

BY PETER BRYAN

CHRIS BOARDMAN, who twice set world records on his way to winning the world 4,000 metres pursuit championship in Manchester last week, will attempt to beat the world one-hour record on the same track tonight.

Boardman's aim is to improve the distance of 55.291 kilometres, covered by Tony Rominger at Bordeaux two years ago, which means he will have to circle the 250-metre wooden track 222 times to be assured of becoming the new champion in the sport's blue-ribbon event.

Since winning his world pursuit title, Boardman has experimented with slight changes to his stretched-out "Superman" position, devised by Graeme Obree when the International Cycling Union (ICU) outlawed his original skier's tuck.

At a press conference yesterday, Boardman said that he had made slight changes "because riding for one hour is quite different from a 4,000 metres pursuit". He will use new handlebars, specially made to his design, to seek a greater degree of comfort. Even then, he expects to come out of the "Superman" style once or twice to ease the strain on his arm muscles.

He refused to predict the distance he might cover but said: "If all goes to plan, I will put the record at such a level that the top riders will have to think long and hard before attempting to break it."

If Boardman is successful, the record might well be the last set by a rider in "Superman" mode to be accepted by the governing body.

Hein Verbruggen, the ICU's director-general, is a known advocate of redefining the regulations so that machines have to be built to a more conventional design.

"If Boardman breaks the record, it will be within the rules," he said, "but our technical commission is studying these innovations and will

## SPORT IN BRIEF

## Essex plans for Law disrupted by rain

STUART LAW, Essex's Australian all-rounder, is highly unlikely to play in the NatWest Trophy final against Lancashire at Lord's tomorrow. Essex had planned to fly Law back from Sri Lanka today, had Australia been eliminated from the Singer Cup tournament by India in the final group match yesterday. But rain forced the postponement of the game for 24 hours. Had Australia lost, Law could have been back in London by 4pm today, giving him time for a good night's rest before the final.

Now, the earliest he can arrive in England is at 9.15am on Saturday, 75 minutes before the start at Lord's. "At present we are not contemplating Stuart being able to play," Peter Edwards, the Essex general manager, said. "But you never know what could happen if there is rain and the final is delayed, or if by 10am he's in a taxi and feeling good."

## Thugwane pulls out

ATHLETICS: Josia Thugwane, the Olympic marathon champion, who claims the deaths have been made against him, has pulled out of the Great North Run on September 15. The 25-year-old security guard, who became South Africa's first black gold medal-winner, said of the threats from a criminal organisation: "They think I'm rich."

## Britons go for record

TENNIS: Megan Miller, based in Florida, and Jo Ward, of Durham, make their debuts when Britain Under-21 women attempt a record fourth successive victory over the United States in the Maureen Connolly Trophy in Texas later this month. Also in the team are Mandy Wainwright, of Chingford, and Claire Taylor and Lizzie Jelfs, of Banbury.

## Parrott flies fold

SNOOKER: John Parrott has withdrawn from the England team for the World Cup in Thailand next month. The former world champion has opted not to travel to Bangkok because the event takes place when his wife is expecting the birth of their second child. Ronnie O'Sullivan joins Peter Ebdon and Nigel Bond in the England line-up.

## First-class Male

REAL TENNIS: James Male, the world rackets champion who became a professional this week, celebrated his new-found status when he and Julian Snow, the world's top amateur, reached the final of the prestigious Cos d'Estournel European Open doubles championship with victory over Adam Phillips and Nick Wood in straight sets.

## FORTHCOMING COMPANY GOLF DAYS

The companies listed have registered their golf days for the 1996 Challenge. The top four individual scorers on the day will form the company team challenge to qualify for a regional final.

Date	Company name	Venue	Players
6 SEP	TAMARIS PLC	MOUNT OBER	40
7 SEP	BANQUE PARIBAS	BIRCHWOOD PARK	40
9 SEP	KENEDYS	MENTMORE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	40
9 SEP	NHS TIMBER LTD	THE MANOR HOUSE HOTEL & CASTLE	25
9 SEP	TNT EXPRESS WORLDWIDE	MOTTRAM HALL HOTEL	90
9 SEP	TULE CATTO CONSUMER CHEMICALS	BRANSTON	100
10 SEP	EUROPA - EUROPEAN EXPRESS LIMITED	STAVERTON PARK	70
10 SEP	GEC PLESSEY SEMICONDUCTORS	TENNESBY PARK	100
10 SEP	KIA CARS (UK) LTD	THE BELFRY	32
10 SEP	MANAGEMENT SCIENCE LTD	BRACKET HALL	16
10 SEP	R J MAXWELL & SON LTD	CASTLEROCK	80
10 SEP	RESIN EXPRESS LIMITED	STOCKS HOTEL COUNTRY	40
10 SEP	SERVICE TEC INT. LTD	WELCOMBE HOTEL	120
10 SEP	SPECTRUM SYSTEMS LTD	HELLDOW LAKES	60
10 SEP	UPONOR LTD	BREADSALL PRIORY	75
10 SEP	WALON LIMITED	COLLINGTON PARK	40
10 SEP	WINCHESTER WHITE LIMITED	SANDFORD SPRINGS	50
10 SEP	XDALE LTD	THE VALE	40
11 SEP	BHS	MENTMORE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	60
11 SEP	BRYDEN JOHNSON & CO	HEVER	50
11 SEP	CLYDE & CO	ROYAL ST GEORGES	60
11 SEP	LLOYDS BANK PLC CORPORATE BANKING	KINGSWOOD	40
11 SEP	SILVER LEVENE	OTRYN PARK COUNTRY CLUB	40
11 SEP	VERNON BUILDING SOCIETY	BRANHALL	40
12 SEP	C.L.C. GROUP LTD	WATERLOOVILLE	45
12 SEP	CLERICAL MEDICAL INVESTMENT GROUP	PICKUP HALL HOTEL & GOLF CLUB	45
12 SEP	ELECTRICAL REVIEW	THE WARRICKSHIRE	130
12 SEP	ESSE LTD	FOXHILLS	70
12 SEP	FALCON PANEL PRODUCTS LTD	WALTON HEATH	28
12 SEP	HAMMOND SIDDARDS	LYTHAM & ST ANNES	70
12 SEP	I.C.L. (NORTH)	ROCKMOUNT	40
12 SEP	MULLER INTERNATIONAL LTD	ROCHFORD	18
12 SEP	NATIONAL MUTUAL LIFE	CLACTON - ON - SEA	30
12 SEP	RABOBANK, LONDON BRANCH	WORPLESSDON	60
12 SEP	SHANDON LESURE	BRAID HILLS	28
12 SEP	SHC PNEUMATICS UK LTD	WOBURN	30
12 SEP	TAYLOR NELSON A&S	BUCKINGHAMSHIRE	60
12 SEP	THE ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS ASS & REGION	RAC COUNTRY CLUB	70
13 SEP	CHARITABLE HOMES	LOUTH	40
13 SEP	DATASCREEN INTERNATIONAL	DULWICH & STONHAM HILL	24
13 SEP	DORE METAL SERVICES	CANTERBURY	50
13 SEP	DOW JONES TELETYPE	ADDINGTON COURT	24
13 SEP	JET	FITCHLEY	24
13 SEP	PLATO COMPUTER SERVICES (UK) LTD	MENTMORE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	50
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13 SEP	SUMMERS & PARTNERS	NORTHUMBERLAND	40
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14 SEP	WOODEN SPOON SOCIETY	THE BELFRY	104

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## FOOTBALL: FOREIGN TRAVELLERS OFFERED JOURNEY INTO UNKNOWN BY COCA-COLA CUP DRAW

## Ravanelli seeks out Hereford

BY DAVID MADDOCK

FABRIZIO RAVANELLI will no doubt be getting out his bumper atlas of Great Britain this morning to check exactly where Hereford is. The Italian, along with the rest of the cosmopolitan band of overseas FA Carling Premiership newcomers, was given the perfect introduction to English football yesterday morning when the draw was made for the Coca-Cola Cup.

The second round, with its seeding bias, inevitably throws up some wonderfully eccentric pairings. Ravanelli, Juninho and Emerson will not have heard of Hereford United, of the Nationwide League third division, never mind know where they play, but he and his Middlesbrough colleagues will not forget their visit to the tiny Edgar Street ground in a hurry.

Chelsea, more glamorous now with Gullit, Vialli, Di

## DRAW

Sheff Wednesd v Oxford United, Fulham v Ipswich, Preston v Tottenham, Blackpool v Chelsea, Southampton v Peterborough, Oldham v Tranmere, Barnsley v Gillingham, Burn v Crystal Palace, Wrexham v Portsmouth, Middlesbrough v Hereford, Nottingham Forest v Wycombe, Swindon v QPR, Brentford v Blackburn, Scarborough v Leicester, Bristol City v Bolton, Lincoln v Manchester City, Barnet v West Ham, Charlton v Burnley, Leeds v Wigan, Stockport v Shrewsbury, Everton v York, Huddersfield v Coventry, Watford v Sunderland, Luton v Derby, Port Vale v Cardiff, Coventry v Birmingham, Stoke v Northampton.

The legs to be played weeks starting Sep 16 and Sep 23

prospect of the Chelsea international brigade sampling sticks of Blackpool rock and dodgy meat pies is perhaps the image of the round.

The 15 Premiership clubs in the second round have all been drawn against lower division opposition, with no fewer than 12 facing teams from the second and third divisions. Blackpool, of course, are particularly pleased with the

"It is wonderful for the town to be able to see some of the game's finest players coming to our place. And I'm sure Vialli and the rest will treat us very seriously because they won't want to be embarrassed."

York City, who arguably produced the biggest upset in the competition's history when they defeated Manchester United at this stage last season, have the chance to prove their pedigree once more after being drawn against Everton. Alan Little's side must travel to Goodison Park for the first leg and Little said: "You can bet Everton won't make the mistake of underestimating us after our result against United."

The most intriguing tie of the round sees Birmingham City visit Coventry City in the first leg. It presents the opportunity for the ambitious first division club to visit local rivals in order to measure their progress and their capability.

## Euro 96 helps to lift league attendances

EARLY-SEASON attendances in the FA Carling Premiership and the Nationwide League have risen — with the success of Euro 96 a factor in the surge of interest in the English game.

The Premiership reports a 4.2 per cent increase in supporters at the turnstiles after four rounds of fixtures, with the influx of leading international players into this country another draw.

The Football League, despite being unable to draw on the same kind of big-name signings, reports attendances up by 4 per cent in relation to the same period 12 months ago.

In the Premiership, the gates are already past the 1 million mark, with 1,127,006 attending at an average of 28,175 per game. This compares with a 27,012 average for the opening four rounds of matches last season and is also 7 per cent up on the 77,940

press officer, said: "The signs are very encouraging. I wouldn't like to put Euro 96 in isolation as the reason for gates going up. After all, attendances in the Premier League at the end of 1995-96 were up 30 per cent compared to the inaugural 1992-93 season, but there is no doubt Euro 96 has been a positive factor and I think the new brand of international stars in the Premiership is another reason."

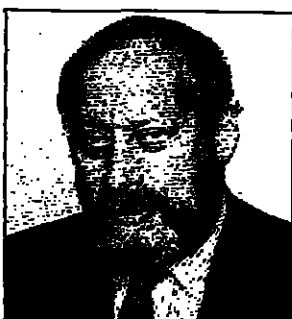
Glasgow and Edinburgh were put on a Coca-Cola Cup collision course last night as the quarter-final draw kept apart the Old Firm of Celtic and Rangers. Instead, Celtic travel to Tynecastle to meet Hearts while Rangers will be at home to Hibernian.

The last-eight draw at Hampden also threw up a repeat of last season's final between Aberdeen and Dundee, with the first division club managed by Jim Duffy, drawn at home.



# Brighton not breezy enough for board game

CLEMENT FREUD



On Friday

The board is hard and narrow, like the mattress on a single bed in a temperance hotel; the mast is high, the sail transparent and, if the wind blows, there is no reason why a person with decent balance should not engage his feet in the straps provided, hold the mast with one hand and push out the sail in the right direction with the other. Thus will he move across the water.

After a while they teach you how to tack: not many people master that, which is why the favoured position of an average windsurfer is lying in the water next to his equipment. Competitors under the command of the British Windsurfers' Association are of a different order altogether: they skim across the water, slam and carve-gybe, perform table tops, double loops and more.

The O'Neill and Philips PWA British Windsurfing World Cup takes place at Brighton this week. \$50,000 (about £32,000) in prize money, half a hundred contestants from around the globe, two from nearby Shoreham — home village of our No 1 (the world's No 4), Nik Baker, whose younger brother, Ant, competes also.

I met Nik Baker yesterday for a journeyman breakfast in the Grand Hotel, on the promenade: he is 25, wears a diamond stud in his right ear, started windsurfing when he was 12, won the junior championship at 15 — a modest, agreeable man. As there were no Grapevins on the buffet, I took some stewed figs. Baker asked what they were. They were dead, I told him. Baker ate cornflakes.

The successful windsurfer is over 6ft tall, weighs around 100 kilos and comes from Hawaii or the Canaries, where there is the right weather throughout the year; he has sufficient money to buy the latest sophisticated equipment. Ten years ago boards were 3.8 metres long and weighed 20 kilos. Today 2.5-metre boards weighing 3.5 kilos are commonplace: state of the art, Kevlar, carbon-fibre, honeycomb sandwich... different boards for different winds and different



Nik Baker, the British No 1, waits for the wind to reach minimum velocity in Brighton yesterday. Photograph: Andrew Hasson

people. Baker is 5ft 9in, weighs 76 kilos and is sponsored by Fanatic (boards), ART (sails), Oxbow (clothing), Bok (footwear) and Red Bull (energy drink). I take a sip from his bottle of Red Bull; it tastes of dissolved wine gums, dissolved red-wine gums.

"Most of our money goes on planes, hotels and cars, especially on excess baggage flying to Hawaii. What we make, we spend."

I ask why there are not more contests in Britain. It is the weather; Penzance is the best we have. "Good winds, big waves, nice people..." but Hawaii and the Canaries are the Rolls-Royce locations, the world championship heats in Gran Canaria and Tenerife the most valuable and prestigious. A race consists of three stages: circumnavigation of a six-buoy circuit, downwind slalom and

riding waves — this last discipline is missing at Brighton, where the sea is flat.

On Wednesday, when the winds finally reached the minimum required nine-knot velocity, Anders Bringdal, sailing a new-design boat with a glider-wing shaped sail, beat

On the credit side, the outcome is open.

Competitive windsurfing in Britain is a waiting game. The Mexicans have a saying: "A man can drink only so many Margaritas." Here, there is no limit to our wait for requisite winds. Kick-off was originally billed

## 'For a journalist with a deadline, indoor windsurfing might be just the thing'

Nik Baker, Bringdal is Swedish — 6ft 5in, 95 kilos, world No 2. The master who towers over this sport as Steffi Graf commands hers is Bjorn Dunkerbeck, of Holland, winner of the World Cup for eight successive years. Sadly, he is missing the British heat: an event without Dunkerbeck is like a puppet show without Punch.

for 10am. By noon they announced it would not be long now; at 1pm they thought it would be right by "two" and at 2.30 a man said: "If there is no more wind, ever, Baker will be overall runner-up by virtue of his second place on Wednesday."

The wind on the course that had

been put down 500 metres from shore diminished and the buoys were relocated and I went to examine a sail, from adjustable head to downhaul, pausing to admire the bloom cut-out, foot-baton, tensioner, clew, foot and luff.

And I picked up a magazine and read a report on indoor windsurfing: a row of large fans placed down one side of a flooded stadium. At 3.30pm, after some 30 minutes of fevered to-ing and fro-ing, the contestants sailed their first course: all 50 of them, and Baker won. As we learnt forward to witness the slalom, the public address system told us that winds had dropped to five to seven knots; please wait for further announcements.

And I thought that if a journalist with a deadline was sent to report windsurfing, the indoor version might be just the thing.

## BOWLS

## Triples winner falls foul of single sting

By DAVID REYS JONES

IRENE MOLYNEUX, who skipped the City and County of Oxford to the triples title in the Double Century English women's championships at Laxington Spa on Wednesday, went out of the singles in the preliminary round after being stung by a bee.

She had to go to hospital for treatment during her match with Sue Lee, of North Walsham. "They had to saw my wedding ring off my finger, and pump me with antibiotics," Molyneux said. "But I can't blame the bee stinging for putting me out of the championship because Sue was already a few shots in front and, even if I had won, I doubt if I would have made it to the final."

Kath Hawes, who is carrying the Oxford club's hopes in the quarter-finals today, is, at 27, almost 50 years younger than Molyneux, but has the same stance and delivery, having modelled herself on her redoubtable club colleague.

In 1994, Hawes teamed up with Howard Watts and the husband and wife partnership of Gary and Jackie Harrington

to win the All-England mixed fours title. Now, she and Harrington are in line to meet in the semi-finals.

First, however, Harrington will have to beat the 1993 champion, Dorothy Prior, of Heston, and Hawes has to overcome Maureen Eccles, of Seascale, who scored a memorable 21-20 victory over Norma May, the 1987 champion, yesterday.

Mary Price, the 1988 singles champion, is still going strong in singles and fours. Her 21-18 second-round win over Gill Fitzgerald in the singles avenged her defeat by the Kettering Lodge player in the Champion of Champions singles event last week.

Also catching the eye in the fours is the 17-year-old Lincolnshire skip, Amy Gows-hall, who has already played in three junior international series.

She faced a stern test from a Carlton Conway quartet, skipped by Brenda Atherton, next year's England president, and came through with flying colours, winning 20-15.

Results, page 38

## WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 38

## TAPPIIT

(a) Crested or tufted, a Scottish version of topped. Chiefly in the collocation the tappit hen. A hen having a crest or topknot. A drinking-vessel having a lid with a knob, specifically one containing a Scotch quart. Walter Scott, *Waverley*, 1816: "A huge pewter measuring-pot, containing at least three English quarts, familiarly denominated a tappit hen."

## UNCT

(b) To anoint, chiefly Scottish. From unct- the participle stem of the Latin *ungere*, *ungere* to smear. "David having reigned 33 years in Jerusalem, where he was the third time anointed."

## TAWPIE

(a) A foolish, senseless or thoughtless girl or woman. Mainly Scottish. An idle *tawpie* is a slattern. Probably from the Norse, of the Norwegian *tapp* a half-witted person, chiefly of women. Robert Burns, *Verses at Selkirk*, 1781: "Gawdies, tawpies, gowks and fools." Free colleges and boarding-schools.

## UMBRATIC

(a) Confined to the shade or retirement; retired, secluded. From the Latin *umbra* a shade, *umbraticus* staying in the shade. Also *shadewy*, *forewaded*, *de Quincey*, *Tait's Magazine*, 1839: "The torpid dreams of what the Romans called an umbratic experience."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Qh8-Kh8 2 Rb8-Kh7 3 Ng5-Kh6 4 Nf7-Kh7 5 Rh8-mate.

## BOXING: CHAMPION HEEDS LESSONS OF THE PAST IN EFFORT TO TAME TYSON

## Seldon plans service with a smile

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT, IN LAS VEGAS

IT IS hard to believe that Bruce Seldon, who has been knocked out in one round by Riddick Bowe, will be able to do much better against Mike Tyson when they meet at the MGM Grand Garden here tomorrow. The World Boxing Association (WBA) champion believes, however, that he can emulate James "Buster" Douglas and become the second man to beat Tyson.

Seldon studied film of Douglas's bout with Tyson and intends to follow the Douglas plan of "stay calm, and stick to your game."

It might sound like the kind of advice that Captain Mainwaring gave to his men, but Seldon fully intends to stick to it. "When Tyson gets in there, I'm going to be smiling," he said. "You are going to see the biggest smile on my face."

Seldon is hoping to find the strength to carry out his strategy from the memory of his mother, Joan, who died

three years ago at the age of 54. "I have never forgotten her," Seldon said.

"I speak to her every day, in the morning and at night, and she gives me strength. Her memory and that of my trainer, Carmen Graziano, who died four years ago, will sustain me. They are with me in spirit. They'd be proud of me now," Douglas, remem-

ber, claimed that a similar kind of maternal motivation lay behind his fleeting moment of glory.

Seldon knows he caused his mother pain by taking part in an armed robbery in his home town of Atlantic City, New Jersey, at the age of 16 and spending the next four years in prison. "It killed her," he said. "I told myself I had to do something positive to make up for it, to make up for all the tears she shed over me."

Seldon disciplined himself by joining the prison boxing team and won the New Jersey prison title. When he came up for parole, he found that the head of the board was a boxing fan who decided to give Seldon his chance.

Seldon's mother saw her son make amends by setting out on his boxing career. He built a creditable record of 31 wins out of 32 contests before she died. When he won the WBA title last year, by stopping Tony Tucker, he went

straight back to Atlantic City and spent two hours by his mother's graveside. "I would have loved her to have been there," he said. "There will always be pain, but I think it has made me stronger."

Many experts believe that he will need more than just his mother's memory to look Tyson in the face and keep his nerve. Seldon's manager, Rocco DePersia, an Atlantic City attorney, disagrees. "He went into the New Jersey penal system at the age of 16, a boy among animals. He came out a man. Tyson is not going to intimidate him on a personal basis."

After the defeat by Bowe in 1991, Seldon almost gave up boxing but his promise to his mother kept him going. Of the disparaging odds for Saturday — Tyson 12-1 on to win on a knockout, Seldon 25-1 to win — DePersia said: "Don't talk to me about odds. When he was 15, you couldn't get odds he would be alive today."



Seldon: disciplined

## FISHING: FRESHWATER PROPOSALS INCLUDE UNIVERSAL BANNING OF GAFFS

## Plans put rod numbers on the line

By BRIAN CLARKE

THE Environment Agency will advertise plans next week to change fishery bylaws in ways that will affect every freshwater angler in England and Wales. They include proposals to abolish the close season for rainbow trout on lakes and to impose limits on the number of rods which anglers may use at one time. The use of gaffs anywhere would be banned.

The proposals are part of a move to provide a common set of rules to replace the patchwork of regulations inherited from the old water authorities in 1989. The plans will be advertised from next Wednesday for public comment. Significant changes are unlikely, though.

The effect of the abolition of a close season for rainbow trout would be to introduce,

for the first time, year-round fishing for trout on all lakes. It is a logical step. Close seasons for fish were first introduced over 100 years ago. Their aim was to prevent harassment of fish while spawning — but rainbows are an imported, farm-reared species that has never been able to spawn in a British lake environment.

The close season for rainbow trout in rivers, where some fish have been able to breed, is not changed. Likewise the close season for the native brown trout is unaffected.

Plans to limit the number of rods an angler may use at one time will cause no stir in the game-fishing world, but may upset some coarse fishermen. Salmon and trout anglers will be limited to the use of one rod on rivers and two rods on lakes.

A proposal to allow coarse fishers to use up to four rods

at a time — a perfectly feasible one — may well, however, produce protests from traditionalists.

The four-rod limit comes as a response to special pleading by specimen-hunters, anglers who will pursue, perhaps, a couple of known big fish in a large expanse of water. They say that, even with four rods apiece, their chances of making contact will be slim. Traditionalists, though, are likely to argue that four rods are too many for any angler to use safely, that there is a danger of simultaneous bites on more than one rod and that, on small waters, one man with four rods could commandeer the scene. They will see trouble in store unless fishery owners step in and apply lower limits.

A range of other changes are proposed, including restrictions on the kinds of nets

used to land fish and to keep them. Knotted and metallic nets would be banned and keepnets would need to be not less than two metres long. All of these proposals are designed to minimise damage to fish and in the main will be welcomed.

A change that will be greeted with relief — many anglers have felt it to be long overdue — is a proposal to abolish the gaff, one of the oldest of fishing implements known to man. The gaff is a large, sharp hook on the end of a long shaft. It has been used for thousands of years — more recently by poachers — for snatching fish from the water. For hundreds of years it has also been used by some anglers to land big fish such as pike and salmon.

Most anglers, though, now regard the instrument as barbaric and unnecessary.

## RADIO CHOICE

## Keeping faith with Boz

The Classic Serial: *Dombey and Son*. Radio 4, 2.00pm.

Michael Bakewell has pulled it off again. He is an old hand at putting Dickens on radio, always with respect for the inimitable Boz. Naturally, something has to be cut out, but Bakewell uses a scalpel not a butcher's chopper. His six-part adaptation of *Dombey and Son* is an episode once we have reached has begun very well indeed. Already in episode one we have reached the point where "and Son" gazes wistfully out to sea, wondering what the wild waves are saying. From this, you can deduce what a lot of problems Bakewell has packed into 60 minutes. One or two things give me problems. Samuel West's Walter Gay sounds too mature. More worryingly, the ice in the soul of Dickens's Dombey Senior, is audibly thawing in Ian Hogg's.

Mad About Musicals. Radio 2, 7.00pm.

The madness of the title is something I have happily been afflicted with all my life. Therefore, this stage musicals quiz is right up my (2nd) street. Breaking with tradition, the contestants are all amateurs. Clearly, one reason they put up such a good show is that some of them have played in the shows about which they answer questions. Inverness play Motherwell and Wishaw in this inaugural contest. Paul Nicholas, chairman, and Peggy C Kewell, pianist, are the only professionals involved. The highest compliment I can pay to the amateurs is that I could hardly hear the seams when they are stitched together with the professionals.

Peter Daville

## RADIO 1

FM Stereo 6.30am Dave Pearce 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa Farnham 2.00pm Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier 7.00 Essential Selection 10.00 One in the Jungle, with Rascal recorded live at Tribal Gathering 12.00 Radio 1 Rap Show 3.00am Annie Nightingale 5.00 Charlie Jordan

## RADIO 2

FM Stereo 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Threlker 3.00 Alex Lester 5.05 Paul Heiney 7.00 Mad About Musicals. See Choice 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night. From the Hippodrome in Golders Green. With the BBC Concert Orchestra under Richard Baines 8.45 Every Ling Thing 9.00 Listen to the Band 10.00 Alan Titchmarsh Radio 2 Arts Programme 12.05am Sue McGarry

## RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 8.00 The Breakfast Programme 8.25 The Magazine, with Doreen MacLennan 10.35 News from Europe 12.00 Midday with Mark, with Doreen MacLennan, with Philippa Lamb 2.05 Rascals on Five 4.00 Nationwide, with Ian 5.45 Entertainment News 7.00 News Extra, with David McNeill 7.30 Parkinson on Sport 8.00 Friday Sport, with Robin Bailey. Football: Reading v Oxford United; Motor racing: reports from the practice session for the Italian Grand Prix 10.45 Paper Talk, with Jay Byrnes and David Alexander 11.00 Night Extra 12.05am After Hours 2.05 Up All Night

## TALK RADIO

6.30am Paul Ross 10.00 Scott Cris-holm 1.00pm Anna Reekum 3.00 Tommy Boyd 6.00 Peter Dinkley 7.00 Sport 10.00 Mike Allen 1.00am Mike Dickinson

## WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. News on the hour 5.30am Europe Today 5.45 Folk Routes 6.30 Europe Today 8.45 Going Solo 8.50 The Insider's Guide 7.15 The World Today 7.30 Rock Salad 8.15 Off the Shelf 8.30 The Way of the Buddha 8.15 Music Review 8.45 Soundbite 10.05 Business Report 10.15 Focus on Faith 10.45 Sport 11.30 BBC English 11.45 Off the Shelf 12.00pm Meridian 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 Scenes in Action 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Multitrack/Alternative 4.05 Sport 4.15 BBC English 4.30 News in German 5.30 Business Report 6.45 Britain Today 6.10 World Today 8.25 Agenda 11.30 The New Europe 11.45 Sport 12.10 Spotlight 12.15 The Insider's Guide 12.25 Book Choice 12.30 Multitrack/Alternative 1.30 Seven Days 1.45 Britain Today 2.30 Outlook 2.55 Words of Faith 3.30 Meridian 4.15 Sport 4.30 The Vintage Chart Show

## CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 Mike Read 8.00 Harry Kelly 12.00 Susan Harcourt 2.00pm Susan Harcourt 4.00 (Violin Concerto in E major) 3.00 Jamie Crieck 6.00 Classic Newswright 6.30 Stanislav 7.00 Classic Showcase 8.00 Concerto Rossini (Overture: The Barber of Seville); Chopin (Piano Concerto No 2 in F minor); Brahms (Symphony No 4 in G minor) 10.00 Michael Mappin 1.00am Sally Peterson

## VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' John 9.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dave 4.00pm Nicky Horne 7.00 Paul Coyne (FM) (AM) Robin Bailey 7.00 Freeman 12.00 Jeremy Lee Grace 2.00am Howard Pearce

## RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, Presented by Andrew McGregor. Includes Bach (Trio Sonata in C, BWV529); Tchaikovsky (Violin Concerto in D); Gaudet (Symphony No 18 in B flat); Bach (Trio Sonata in G, BWV530); Beethoven (Overture The Creatures of Prometheus) 9.00 Morning Collection. Includes Haydn (Symphony in G minor); Verdi (Pari Sam... Figlio Mio Padre); Janacek (Sinfonia) 10.00 Musical Encounters. Includes Bach (Symphony in E flat, Op 8 No 5); Beethoven (Sonata in A flat, Op 110); Brahms (Ballade, Op 10 Nos 2, 3 and 4); Vivaldi (The Unanswered Question); Beethoven (Incidental music: Leonore Prohaska); Liszt (Après une lecture du Dante); Pfitzner (Violin Concerto) 12.00 Composers of the Week: Felix Mendelssohn and the Heritage of Spain 1.00pm News; Bristol Lunchtime Concert: Bartok, Pius. Introduced by Chris de Souza. William Deesley, baritone; Steven Drake, piano. Dvorak (Seven Gypsy Melodies, Op 55); Bartok (Five Songs, Op 16); Kurtag (Three Old Inscriptions, Op 25); Bartok (Three Hungarian Folk Songs) (Op 10) 1.58 Preconcertos. Featuring the oboist Douglas Boyd talking about something close to his heart 2.00 Telemann. Douglas Boyd, oboe; Harold Lester, chamber organ; Richard Lester, cello. Telemann (Trio Sonata in E flat)

2.15 Music Restored, Torrance 3.00 Music Restored, Torrance for two choirs, Op 9 No 6, Tino Slaton in C, Op 8 No 1; Cantata: Polche Al Vago sereno; (I) 3.00 Mining the Archive. Fiona Tillingham talks to friend and fellow musician Sir Neville Martinson about Thurston Dart's versatility as a continuo and solo keyboard performer 5.00 Music Machine, with Tommy Pearson 5.15 In Tune. Presented by Jeremy Nicholas. Includes German (Three Dances, Henry VIII); Chopin (Grand Duo Concertistic on themes from Robert le Diable); Scharwenka (Piano concerto No 1 in B flat minor) 7.30 BBC Proms 1996. Live from the Albert Hall in London. Including Prokofiev's colossal second piano concerto, Debussy (La Martyre de St Sebastian), and the Prokofiev (Piano Concerto No 2 in G minor) 8.20 Firebird Memories 8.40 Proms Part 2. Staveley (Galeat: The Firebird) 9.50 The Fortunate Cat: Taking the Pulse, with Roy Fisher and John (5/5) (I) 10.00 Hear and Now: Aaram Vir's opera double-bill *Snatched by the Gods* and *Broken Stars* with Robert Poulton, Susan Roberts, Jesse Gardner, Smith, Fiona Kimm and Andrew Slater. London Sinfonietta, under Markus Stenz 12.00 Composer of the Week: Brahms 1.00am Through the Night, with David Cornet

## RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping (LW only) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Plays for the Day 6.30 Today, incl 7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 Family Life — Birth, Death and the Whole Damn Thing (5/5) 8.58 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Desert Island Discs. The designer Terence Conran (I) 9.45 Feedback. This last in the current series 10.00 News: Survivors: Esther's Story. The story of a woman imprisoned in Sobibor prison camp, in the heart of Nazi-occupied Europe (5/5) 10.30 Woman's Hour 11.30 The Natural History Programme 12.00 News: You and Yours, with Dylan Witter 12.25pm Over the Counter. Oliver Watson samples sausages and salmon in a Cornish setting with Huw and Sally Jones (3/4) 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke 1.40 The Archers (I) 1.55 Shipping 2.00 News: The Classic Serial: *Dombey and Son*. See Choice (1/5) (I) 3.00 News: The Afternoon Shift 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Tim Marlow talks to Ruth Rendell about her new book, *The Keys to the Street* 4.45 Short Story: *Chocolate* by Lesley Glaister. Reader: Norman Kiershaw (I) 5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 6.00 St. O'Clock News 6.30 Parks and Gardens. Simon Parkes visits a very special garden in Devon (4/5)

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 Pick of the Week 7.05 Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby chairs the first of a new series. With David Blunkett, MP, the broadcaster Sean Campbell, Roderic Freeman, MP, and Madsen Pine, president of the Adam Smith Institute 8.50 Speaking as an Expert, in a new series. Laune Taylor tries to pass herself off as an expert in six different fields. This week, he has five days to become a successful poet 9.15 Letter from America, by Alister Cooke 9.30 Kaleidoscope Feature: 50 Years of the Edinburgh Festival. Paul Allen sees the closing events of the festival and discusses the contribution the festival has made to the culture of Great Britain (I) 9.58 Weather 10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Enigma. Samuel West reads Robert Harris's thriller (10/12) 11.00 The Mark Steel Show. This week Mark Steel tackles pessimism (4/4) 11.25 Tea Junction, with Patrick Harman and guests 11.45 A Cry in the Dark. Joanna Pinnock presents the first of five programmes about the calls of nocturnal animals. Adrian Barnett interprets the night-time calls of the world's only nocturnal monkey and the local vampire bat 12.00 News and 12.27am Weather 12.30 The Late Book: Some Kind of Black (5/10) (I) 12.45 Shipping Forecast 1.00 AM World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.9-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-94.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.8. LW 186. MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 683. 800. WORLD SERVICE. MW 685. LW 158 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.6. MW 1197. 1216. TALK RADIO. UK. MW 1053. 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McKenna.



# Big, blonde and back where she belongs

Lettia Dean was born for the 1950s. She has that wide voluptuous face, she has that coquettish smile, she has that air of late Monroe or early Dora. Cupid's bow mouth all sorts of 1950s phrases tumble forth quite naturally. "All right, ducks!" she asks and none of us thinks any the worse of her for it. Ducks?

The tragedy is, of course, that Dean was born not among petticoats and puny girdles, but among the platform boots and tank-tops of the 1970s. If that wasn't unfortunate enough, her screen incarnation then spent her formative years behind, and occasionally under, the bar of the Queen Vic, being successively left by her father, her mother and her dog. In the end, Sharon got the message and launched her own pre-emptive exit. "Cheer up, Grant, it may never happen," she said and swept out of *EastEnders* with a valedictory

wiggle of those statuesque hips. Now the magic of television has put Dean back where she belongs, slap bang in the middle of the 1950s (in truth, rather more towards the end) and slap bang in the middle of her own series. The *Hello Girls* (BBC1). They both look fabulous. As Chris Cross (alliteration ruled even then, apparently), Dean gets to do big blonde hair and to teeter down a lot of corridors in impossibly high heels, tugging at impossibly tight skirts and adjusting a lot of impossibly complicated but well-concealed underwear.

As the 1950s, the exterior and sets also did a very passable impersonation. Cars of appropriate vintage rolled very slowly into and out of shot, presumably so the producers felt they were getting value for money. Every now and then they'd go mad and blow a week's budget on a vintage bus or a small group of shiny, red

telegram boys, complete with shiny, red motorcycles. "Ah, telegrams," we all said wistfully, looking around for someone to tell they were probably too young to remember them.

Nobody, however, was too young to follow the plot of this undemanding period confection. It was the first day at Derby's telephone exchange for Sylvia Sands (Amy Marston) who, at a not very sweet 16, had a lot to live up to. Her sister Joy, as the two fearless supervisors reminded her, had made it to the quarter-finals of the GPO operator of the year competition.

What else? This being the 1950s, Chris went dancing at lunchtime, as you did, and met the sort of chap who, if I'm not mistaken, had trouble written all over his face. As for Sylvia, she had communist propaganda to distribute on behalf of



Matthew Bond

her high-minded but love-struck schoolboy admirer, Rick (Daniel Newman). "Not really a boyfriend," she explained to Chris, "more a comrade."

Back at Albert Square, Dean's former screen husband was redistributing a little wealth in *EastEnders* (BBC1), donating the £20 he had improbably won as first prize in the Queen Vic's limbo competition to Pauline's play-

ground fund. This took her back, as until then she had been harbouring rather unkind thoughts about Grant. Can't think why.

Pauline (Wendy Richard) had also been harbouring some rather unwise thoughts for one of the few original *EastEnders*. You would think, after all these years of wall-to-wall misery, she would know better than to sit back in a state of post-playground euphoria and announce brightly: "You know what Mark, I think it's going to be all right now." No, we shouted, don't say it.

"I know we've had some rotten things happen in the past, but it's all behind us now." I was reminded of the rabbit sitting in the middle of the road wondering what treats those two bright beams of light foretold. Something to eat perhaps?

It didn't take long, but then in Albert Square it never does. Two scenes later Mark announced that

the building society was about to repossess his house, while a couple of Pina Colodas later it was Ian's turn finally to discover the awful truth about Cindy and David. So much for the Oracle of Walford.

A host of similar accounts was employed later, to far less effect, in *Murder Squad* (ITV), yet another of those interminable series where documentary cameras follow real, live policemen around. Despite the title (*Murder of an Unknown Man*), half the *East End* seemed to know Billy Jones, the scrap metal man whose body was found in a burnt-out van in Essex. The other half knew who had murdered him. This was the less-than-exciting story of how the police brought the two together and got their man.

It was hard slog for the police and even harder work for us, who had to wrestle with sentences such as: "Will told Maureen, Billy's ex-

wife, that a feller called Scotch Tony had heard from someone called Billy Boynton that he'd seen a body down at Ferry Lane." Actually it was his nephew Carl, but you get the general idea.

Always nice to see Janis Robinson back on television, but *The Food Chain* (BBC2) was a disappointment. Robinson's measured tones are currently in great demand for narrating other people's documentaries (remember *The House?*) which is good news for her bank balance but not such good news for the authority of her own programmes, such as this predictable look at the modern food industry. Worse, much of what was covered last night — food policy in the postwar years — was covered in a similar, archive-driven style by the splendid *A Slice of Life*, shown by the same channel just nine months ago. Next week, supermarbles. Sorry Janis, but *A Slice of Life* did that too.

## 6.00am Business Breakfast (36612) 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (67963)

9.00 Breakfast News Extra (8893709)

9.20 Style Challenge (9350083) 9.45 Kilroy (1596709) 10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (43728)

11.00 News, Regional News (CeeFax) and weather (4880341)

11.05 FILM: Perry Mason: The Case of the Desperate Deception (1990). With Raymond Burr and Barbara Hale. Directed by Christian I. Nyby II (5596780)

12.50pm Mary Berry's Ultimate Cakes (19357815)

1.00 News (CeeFax) (60070) 1.30 Regional News (45540419)

1.40 Neighbours. (s) (32618438) 2.00 Call My Bluff (s) (6476631) 2.35 Turnabout (s) (1012709)

3.00 [CHOICE] Peter Seabrook's Gardeners' Week. A practical guide, with Helen Vane (6780)

3.30 The Animals of Earthling Wood (8860651) 3.55 The All New Popcorn Show (8375490) 4.15 To Me, To You (7893031) 4.40 Grand Marnier (7374780) 5.00 Newsround (s) (7099002) 5.10 Record Breakers (s) (CeeFax) (s) (3212761)

5.35 Neighbours (s) (CeeFax) (s) (850148)

6.00 News (CeeFax) and weather (235)

6.30 Regional news magazines (915)

7.00 [CHOICE] Muppets Tonight! The return of Kermit and Miss Piggy (134689)

7.25 Top of the Pops (309696)

8.00 Safe and Sound: Snookered. Comedy series about two men who find the path to true love paved with obstacles (CeeFax) (s) (4708)

8.30 Keeping Up Appearances. Richard is not exactly overjoyed with his birthday present (s) (CeeFax) (s) (6544)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News (7254)

9.30 [CHOICE] Dangerfield. Nigel Vaillant returns as the police partner, Paul Dangerfield (CeeFax) (s) (75993)

10.20 Parkinson: The Interviews. Les Dawson, Michael Parkinson plunders the archives for memorable interviews. This week he recalls trying to compose himself during three interviews with Les Dawson (CeeFax) (s) (600525)

11.00 The Secrets of the X-Files (s) (811099)

11.35 FILM: Nightbreaker (1989). A made-for-television drama, with father and son team Martin Sheen and Emilio Estevez playing the same character. A scientist involved with the American nuclear projects in the 1950s finds his past comes back to haunt him. Directed by Peter Markle (457196)

1.10 FILM: War of the Colossal Beast (1958). Sequel to *The Amazing Colossal Man*. The oversized hero is alive but not well, his face and his mind are a mess and lead to an inevitable, low-budget rampage. With Sally Fraser, Roger Pace, Dean Cain, Russ Bender and Charles Starvo. Directed by Bert I. Gordon (43687)

2.15am-2.20 Weather (5678823)

## 6.00am Open University: Patterns in Green (2524709) 6.25 Discovering 18th-Century Strasbourg (2568544) 6.50 Understanding Modern Societies (4006157)

7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (8915438)

7.30 Alvin and the Chipmunks (9267728) 7.55 White Fang (2419964) 8.20 Secret Life of Toys (8303631) 8.35 Lassie (2889438)

9.00 Blitz on Cartooning (45186) 9.30 Today's Gourmet (844065) 9.55 Open View (3004093) 10.00 Playdays (3081148) 10.25 On the Road Again (3084235) 10.55 A Question of Sport's Golden Oldies (1924709)

11.25 Fences (6027780) 12.15pm Young Man and His Dog (2049964) 1.00 The Perfect Pickle Programme (86612) 1.30 Working Lunch (52964) 2.00 Secret Life of Toys (5037523)

2.15 FILM: Rising Son (1990). The strained relationship between a father recently made redundant and his listless son. Directed by John David Coles (575723)

3.55 News (CeeFax) (4026436) 4.00 Today's Day (728) 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (612) 5.00 Esther (6167) 5.30 Going, Going, Gone (954)

6.00 Gower's Cricket Special. David Gower looks ahead to tomorrow's NatWest trophy final between Essex and Lancashire at Lord's (877)

6.30 The Munsters (857159)

6.55 FILM: Far Country (1955) with James Stewart. Classic Western. A cowboy's dream of peace and prosperity in the Canadian gold towns is dashed when a crooked lawyer steals his land and kills his best friend. Directed by Anthony Mann (3496341)

8.30 Gardeners' World. Alan Titchmarsh introduces a chance to see again some of the highlights from this year's series (4186)

9.00 Bottom: Finger With Rik Mayall (5896) 9.30 Pulp Video (73457)

10.00 The Fall Guy. Danny Brown takes up the challenge to give practical jokes a taste of their own medicine (26051)

10.30 Newsnight (CeeFax) (924877)

11.15 The Larry Sanders Show (CeeFax) (886728)

11.40 Sentinel. With Jerry Seinfeld (465419)

12.05am Grace under Fire (113311)

12.30 FILM: La Boulangère de Monceau (1962) with Barbet Schroeder. A student sells his love at first sight with a girl he meets in the street. Directed by Eric Rohmer (580552)

12.55 FILM: La Carrière de Suzanne (1963) with Catherine Sée. Two connoisseurs young men toy with the affections of a young girl. Directed by Eric Rohmer (1951649) Ends 1.55

10.00 Star Trek Generations (1994) (27726) 12.00 Hell Bound (1993) (57169) 1.55am News (1994) (681755) 3.00 The Favor (1994) (21239) 4.00-4.30 Windows' Peak (1994) (4654129)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

12.00 Adam's Rib (1949) (92541) 2.00pm The Trial of the Lonesome Pine (1936) (205409) 2.55 The President's Analyst (1967) (134693) 5.00 PM 100 (1963) (369961) 7.15 Quack Attack (148624) 7.40 Audition (1984) 8.05 Tension and Pursuit (172541) 8.30 Barkers (5558) 9.00 Sing Me a Story with Belle (85780) 9.30 Lingo Chops (36009) 10.00 Muppet Babies (72490) 10.30 Adventures in Wonderland (1964) 11.00 Quack Attack (1983) 12.00 Razzle Dazz (5524) 12.30pm Lingo Chops (36009) 1.00 Tension and Pursuit (172541) 1.30 Barkers (5558) 1.55am News (1994) (681755) 3.00 The Favor (1994) (21239) 4.00-4.30 Windows' Peak (1994) (4654129)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold takes over from 10pm to 1am.

6.00am News (1994) 6.25 Muppet Babies (72490) 6.50 Quack Attack (148624) (369961) 7.15 Quack Attack (148624) 7.40 Audition (1984) 8.05 Tension and Pursuit (172541) 8.30 Barkers (5558) 9.00 Sing Me a Story with Belle (85780) 9.30 Lingo Chops (36009) 10.00 Muppet Babies (72490) 10.30 Adventures in Wonderland (1964) 11.00 Quack Attack (1983) 12.00 Razzle Dazz (5524) 12.30pm Lingo Chops (36009) 1.00 Tension and Pursuit (172541) 1.30 Barkers (5558) 1.55am News (1994) (681755) 3.00 The Favor (1994) (21239) 4.00-4.30 Windows' Peak (1994) (4654129)

THE CHRISTIAN CHANNEL

4.00am Thought for the Day 4.05 Worship 4.15 Kite TV 4.30 Ray Brown 4.45 Vision 5.30 and 6.00 Gospel Word 5.30 and 6.00

## Peter Seabrook's Gardening Week (BBC1, 2.00pm)

This new entrant to the BBC daytime schedule was to have been hosted by Geoff Hamilton, moving to an afternoon slot as the current run of *Gardeners' World* came to an end. But Hamilton, that most friendly of gardening presenters, sadly died last month.

In his place steps Peter Seabrook, a television veteran who succeeded the legendary Percy Thrower on *Gardeners' World* back in the 1970s and was a regular guide to the Chelsea Flower Show. Since then Seabrook has been little seen on British screens, but for 20 years he has worked on a gardening magazine in the United States. Seabrook is joined for this new series by the stern Helen Yemm of *Gardening from Scratch* for a programme which promises to offer straightforward practical advice, delivered in an unhurried style and without gimmicks.

Muppets Tonight (BBC1, 7.00pm)

The Muppets have been going for so long (more than 20 years, if you count their appearances on *Sesame Street*) and so successfully that you would not expect many changes now. Nor are there. True, new puppets have appeared alongside the eternal Kermit and Miss Piggy, but the putting-on-show format still allows for a raft of acts and the ritual mock humiliation of a human guest star. Tonight it is the turn of Michelle Pfeiffer, playing Julie Andrews in *The Sound of Music*. The level of zest and invention remains generally high, though a send-up of *Baywatch* falters because it is difficult to parody something that is already in that area. Far more original is a number involving a line of dancing crows, while a history of the world as told by Elvis Presley lookalikes also has its moments.

Dangerfield (BBC1, 9.30pm)

Regular viewers of the police-musical drama may be disappointed by the raft of new characters in this third series, not to mention the re-staging of existing ones. And the pretty Warwickshire countryside has been mysteriously dropped from the opening credit sequence. Does this portend a darker tone to what has been a relatively undressing show? At least nothing has changed for Nigel Le Vaillant's Dangerfield. He is still juggling his two jobs, GP and police officer, trying to cope with the death of his wife (even though it happened seven years ago) and being exasperated by his two truculent children. Tonight's scenario, by Don Shaw, sends our hero into the political crossfire between the chief constable and a hostile councillor. A shade implausible it may be, but you have to keep watching.

Friends: The One After the Super Bowl Channel 4, 9.30pm

Julia Roberts has made so many bad films recently that an appearance on one of America's most popular sit-coms could be a smart move. Brooke Shields, Chris Isaak and Jean Claude Van Damme may be less in need of a career boost but they, too, turn up in this one-hour special, originally screened after the Super Bowl in January, and gained the show's highest ratings. It says much for the ability of the writers that these high-profile guests can be worked into the format without strain. Addicts of the series will want to know that Roberts's contribution is to humiliate Chandler (Joey Tribbiani) in what the Americans call the bathroom. Van Damme unwittingly sets Rachel (Jennifer Aniston) against Monica (Courteney Cox) while Shields persists in identifying Joey (Matt LeBlanc) with the doctor he plays in the soap opera.

Peter Wyndmark

9.00 Bramwell (s) (Teletext) (s) (6803)

10.00 ITN News at Ten and weather (Teletext) (20677)

10.40 Xmas Party (2154542)

12.10 Alfred Hitchcock Presents: Incident in a Small Jail. A travelling salesman is jailed for jaywalking in a strange town. He becomes embroiled in a plot to get revenge on a murderous cellmate (1213303)

12.40 Funny Business (353252)

1.15 The Good Sex Guide... Late (450194)

2.20 FILM: So Proudly We Hail (1989) Drama surrounding the plight of a professor who begins to question the white supremacist group he has been seduced into supporting. With Edward Harris and David Soul. Directed by Lionel Chetwynd (505859)

4.00 News at Five with Sharon Davies and Derek Redmond (18568)

5.00 Best of British Motor Sport (57113)

5.30 ITN Morning News (42194)

## 6.00am GMTV (9319631)

9.25 Supermarket Sweep (8700344)

9.55 Regional News (3091255) 10.00 The Time... the Place (s) (2262273) 10.30 This Morning (64794709)

12.20pm Regional News (Teletext) (7474964)

12.30 ITN News (Teletext) (2588099)

12.55 Murder, She Wrote (8429148) 2.00 Home and Away (Teletext) (s) (97179186) 2.25 Quisine (Teletext) (s) (9717273) 2.55 Simply Delicious with Family and Friends (1010341)

3.20 ITN News (Teletext) (7284070) 3.25 Regional News (728334)

3.30 Rosie and Jim (s) (s) (8452525) 3.45 Toes (s) (8440780) 4.00 Animaniacs (Teletext) (s) (2254577) 4.10 Captain Simian and the Space Monkeys (Teletext) (7895148) 4.35 Google Watch (8172866)

5.10 A Country Practice (s) (4023916)

5.40 ITN News (Teletext) (300069)

6.00 Home and Away (s) (Teletext) (s) (84693)

6.25 Regional News (Teletext) (141916)

7.00 Lucky Numbers (Teletext) (s) (3457)

7.30 Coronation Street (Teletext) (167)

8.00 The Bill: Repossession. A petrol can, a lighter and a desperate man threatening to burn down a house. Can Conway talk him round? (Teletext) (9877)

8.30 Strange but True? Encounters. Michael Aspel presents more stories with a paranormal twist. Witnesses tell of their encounters with a mysterious creature lurking off the Cornish coast. And, also in Cornwall, the programme looks at the work of a man who is being kept busy as an official Church of England exorcist (Teletext) (s) (1612)

9.00 Bramwell (s) (Teletext) (s) (6803)

10.00 ITN News at Ten and weather (Teletext) (20677)

10.40 Xmas Party (2154542)

12.10 Alfred Hitchcock Presents: Incident in a Small Jail. A travelling salesman is jailed for jaywalking in a strange town. He becomes embroiled in a plot to get revenge on a murderous cellmate (1213303)

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5.00 Best of British Motor Sport (57113)

5.30 ITN Morning News (42194)

6.00am GMTV (9319631)

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12.20pm Regional News (Teletext) (7474964)

12.30 ITN News (Teletext) (2588099)

## As HTV WEST except:

5.10pm Let's Go (3710032)

6.25-7.00 Wales Tonight (141916)

10.40 Barry Welsh is Coming (946148)

11.10 Mandy Man (599780)

11.40 Swift Justice (990070)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:

12.25pm Illuminations (7482983)

12.55 Coronation Street (2556490)

1.25-1.55 Quisine (68413693)

1.55 Home and Away (81345001)

2.25 High Road (9717273)

2.55-3.20 Gardeners' Diary (1010341)

3.10 Home and Away (4023916)

6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (65438)

10.30 Westcountry News (123761)

10.45 Club 2245 (633952)

11.45 Highlander (256148)

As HTV West except:

12.55pm Home and Away (2556490)

1.25 Quisine (68413693)

1.55 A Country Practice (32615341)

1.50 Shortland Street (4023916)

6.25-7.00 Central News and Weather (141916)

10.40 FILM: Fall from Grace (16110166)

12.40 Comedy Central (1957223)

1.40 The Good Sex Guide... Late (8997200)

2.40 cyber.cafe (8356303)

3.05 Heller Skelter (4157945)

4.05 Jobfinder (8721910)

5.20 Asian Eye (904620)

## 6.35am The Wonderful Wizard of Oz (s) (3049380) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (50583) 9.00 California Dreams (s) (37506) 9.25 Legend of White Fang (s) (5271548) 9.55 Back to the Future (2813506) 10.20 Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure (s) (3875148) 10.45 Biker Mice from Mars (s) (1922341) 11.10 Dog City (s) (2117411)





# GOLF 38

Davies laughing all the way to the bank

# SPORT

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 6 1996

# TENNIS 41

Agassi pulls no punches in defeat of Muster



## Five nations step back from the brink



Dallaglio: good base

BY DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

YESTERDAY could have been the day when England received marching orders from rugby union's five nations championship. Instead, the most famous of competitions was saved "for the foreseeable future" in what must be deemed the most encouraging moment for the sport in a year filled with bitterness.

Though he resisted the temptation to wave a piece of paper in the air and announce "Peace in our time," Colin Hurrell could not resist a weary smile when he announced an accord between the five nations — apply enough at the Rugby Club in London where the game's best-known almanack, the *Rothmans Rugby Union Yearbook*, was being launched.

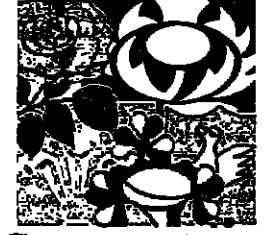
Hurrell, the Rugby Football Union (RFU) treasurer, was entitled to be weary. He was one of the union negotiating team, alongside John Richardson, the president, and Cliff Brittle, the chairman of the executive committee, who burnt the midnight oil in Bristol alongside Tom Kiernan and Syd Millar (Ireland), Vernon Pugh (Wales) and Alan Hogg (Scotland) to resolve the three-month dispute during which Scotland, Ireland and Wales proposed the expulsion of England from the championship.

The precise detail of their agreement will not be known before Monday, at a press conference in Dublin, but it still requires the approval of the respective national committees — those of England and Scotland met today, the Welsh met yesterday. The four

nations had been due yesterday to make a decision on their relationship with England but that meeting was postponed until Monday, when a four-nation tournament would have been announced.

The dispute had its roots in England's broadcasting agreement with BSkyB, the satellite company part-owned by News International, owners of *The Times*. Hurrell said the other unions recognised that agreement, worth £87.5 million over five years, to be legally binding and that it remained in place. There must be speculation as to whether the Celtic nations have also accepted the money on offer from BSkyB — £40.5 million to Wales and £28 million each to Scotland and Ireland, which recognises the relative playing strength of each nation.

### FIVE NATIONS



### CHAMPIONSHIP

It is understood that yesterday's accord will leave the ten championship games equally divided between terrestrial television and BSkyB, and that the money to be equally divided between the four home unions will amount to around £9 million a year each. The existing contract with the BBC, which expires next March, is worth £2.38 million

to Scotland, Ireland and Wales, England's £4.25 million being boosted by a satellite contribution.

The Celtic have stood on two points of principle: the first, that the five nations is a joint property and can only be sold by the competing countries (the French were kept informed of the Bristol meeting) acting in conjunction. The second, the desirability or otherwise of a virtual monopoly by one broadcaster of significant rugby throughout the world. BSkyB is also an associate company of News Corporation, who last year negotiated a ten-year agreement with the major southern-hemisphere countries.

All four home unions desperately need cash to develop their sport and pay players in the newly-professionalised game, and satellite television

holds bigger purse strings than any terrestrial broadcaster. Tony Hallett, the RFU secretary, said yesterday: "BSkyB is not all bad, there is much to be gained from them and the money allows us to take a strong place not only in the five nations but in world rugby," he said.

Hallett acknowledged the damage done to the sport's image this year by a series of rows in which the RFU has been embroiled — with the other home unions, with their own leading clubs and internally. His hope is that success on one front will now lead to an unravelling of the other knotty problems.

Epruc and the leading Welsh clubs threatened last week to break away from their governing body, but Hallett added: "I believe we will find a solution which keeps the se-

nior clubs wholly under the RFU."

That may also depend upon the players, who supported the clubs by staying away from England's training session at Bisham Abbey on Wednesday. "That was not a snub to the RFU but an indication that we needed to find out where we stand," Lawrence Dallaglio, the Wasps captain and a leading candidate for the England position, said.

"We welcome the news about the five nations. It would be a shame to lose the historic tradition the championship has, but that is only a basis from which we should move on. It's a sound basis and the envy of other countries but if we are to win the World Cup we have to beat the best in the world."

Gerald Davies, page 38

## Unemployment benefits are on Hill's mind

FROM OLIVER HOLT IN MONZA

DAMON HILL gazed out beyond the banks of cameras, the howling questioners and the observers perched precariously on stools and benches, and contemplated life after Williams here yesterday. He talked about the team as if it was a family whose father figure had told him to leave home. "On reflection," he said, "maybe it is time I flew the nest."

Hill looked strained but far from downcast as he spoke for the first time about the moment Frank Williams, the team owner, rang him last Wednesday to tell him that his services would not be required next season. He had thought his lead in the world championship this year, at present 13 points, was the "ace up his sleeve", but he found to his dismay that it amounted to nothing more than a losing hand.

He emphasised, though, that Williams's ruthless decision had only increased the determination to clinch the title that has eluded him in his previous three years at Wil-

liams. "I have had assurances from Frank that I will receive equal treatment to Jacques Villeneuve over the last three races," Hill said. "All this has done is increase my motivation to win the championship."

His answers, though, left many aspects of the events of the past week unexplained. He hinted at reasons for his dismissal that left them lingering in the air and refused to be drawn about his likely desti-



Frentzen: bewildered

nation for next season. Ferrari was ruled out yesterday by Jean Todt, the team's sporting director, and Benetton are emerging as a more likely new home, with McLaren, Jordan and Stewart Grand Prix all possibilities. "There is no danger of me being out of work," Hill said.

Predictably, but wisely, he was the soul of diplomacy, refusing to indulge in over-criticism of the man on whom he depends for the maintenance of his title challenge. He echoed the words of his manager, Michael Breen, when he insisted that money was not the reason behind the split with the team for whom he has won 20 grands prix in 64 starts.

Williams had given him an explanation, he said, but he did not want to disclose it. There was increasing speculation here yesterday, though, that Williams's courting of the German driver, Heinz-Harald Frentzen, Hill's replacement, may be linked to the prospect of BMW joining the team as an engine partner when Renault leave the sport at the end of next year.

"I am disappointed," Hill said. "I would not say I could be anything other than that. I believe I turned myself round over the winter and made myself the leading driver and my view was that the reward for winning the races I have won should have been the opportunity to drive for Williams and have the best equipment."

"I have every reason to believe that Frank and Patrick Head, the team's technical directors, were extremely happy with my driving all season. I have had many reactions from them which would suggest they were not only impressed, but also astonished, at the way I have been driving. I have won 20 races in my career here and if I



Hill was in demand at Monza yesterday, when he talked about his imminent departure from Williams. Photograph: Marc Aspland

have won 23 by the time I leave, I would consider that a bloody good score.

"But at least this will open up a lot of opportunities. I started here as a test driver and I have grown in the six years I have been with the team, but now I have the opportunity to explore other teams and help develop a winning car somewhere else. I have done so much to-ing and fro-ing in the last ten days, I feel like I have been to Mars and back."

Frentzen, who looked bewildered by the attention that was lavished on him from the moment he arrived at Milan airport yesterday morning, including a German television crew that shadowed his every move, held his own press conference here an hour be-

fore Hill started talking. Frentzen said he had only signed for Williams earlier this week but fuelled rumours that the deal had been set in motion as long as a year ago by admitting that he and Williams had maintained "close contact" since 1994, when the team owner tried to persuade him to join Williams as a replacement for Ayrton Senna after the Brazilian was killed at Imola.

"I have been waiting for this chance for a long, long time," Frentzen said. "I think I can handle the pressure. I imagine Frank signed me because he wants me to beat Schumacher next year."

Frentzen, at last, has the opportunity to prove what the experts have always said — that he is the only man

capable of going quicker than Schumacher. He was his equal in German Formula 3 and also in the Mercedes junior team, when they competed in sportscars. Five years ago, though, Schumacher's career took off and Frentzen's stagnated, meandering its way through Japanese F3000 before landing the Formula One drive he now occupies with Sauber.

Yesterday, the Italian media wanted to know everything about him, his hobbies, his interests. "I enjoy watching soccer," he said. "I am a Borussia Mönchengladbach fan, so I spend a lot of time keeping my fingers crossed."

Now that logic has let him down, for Hill, too, superstition may be the word as he contemplates his future.

## England 'injured' inquiry

BY DAVID MADDOCK

THE Football Association will explore the possibility of a rule change, preventing players who withdraw from international duty from competing for up to a week after the fixture. The move comes after four players competed for their clubs three days after injury prevented them from appearing for England against Moldova.

Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, was said to have "raised his eyebrows" when he saw that Steve McManaman and Robbie Fowler were in the starting line-up for Liverpool against Coventry on Wednesday. Steve Howey was playing for Newcastle United, and Darren Anderton for Tottenham Hotspur.

It is the case of Anderton, in particular, which has alarmed Hoddle and his backroom team. The winger withdrew from the England party with an apparently long-term injury. Yet he was straight back into Premiership action with

Tottenham. It has privately annoyed Hoddle, and he has demanded some action.

The England manager, however, realises that he can not afford to antagonise club managers just one game into his reign as national team coach, and he will adopt a gentle approach when querying the situation with Tottenham and Liverpool. A spokesman for the FA stressed that there would be no confrontation with clubs.

A Lancaster Gate insider confirmed, however, that Hoddle is determined to ensure that his future squads are not affected by injuries which are miraculously cured soon after the international. The rule change has been put on the agenda within the FA, and is likely to be discussed at the next meeting of the International Committee.

Hoddle prefers not to comment on the situation, but he made clear his position earlier in the week, when he stressed

that clubs must start working towards placing a greater importance on the international side. Ideally, he said, he wants to arrive at a position where the FA Carling Premiership puts the England team ahead of the clubs.

The FA revealed yesterday that it is unlikely to take any action over allegations made by Vinnie Jones, the Wimbledon midfielder player, that Anderton spat at him during the Premiership fixture on Wednesday evening.

A spokesman said there had been no complaints and that the incident had not been in the referee's report. The matter would be treated, he added, as a routine red card offence. Jones claimed he responded by lashing out at Anderton after he was spat upon. The Tottenham winger has said that any incident was an accident — he had no intention of spitting at Jones.

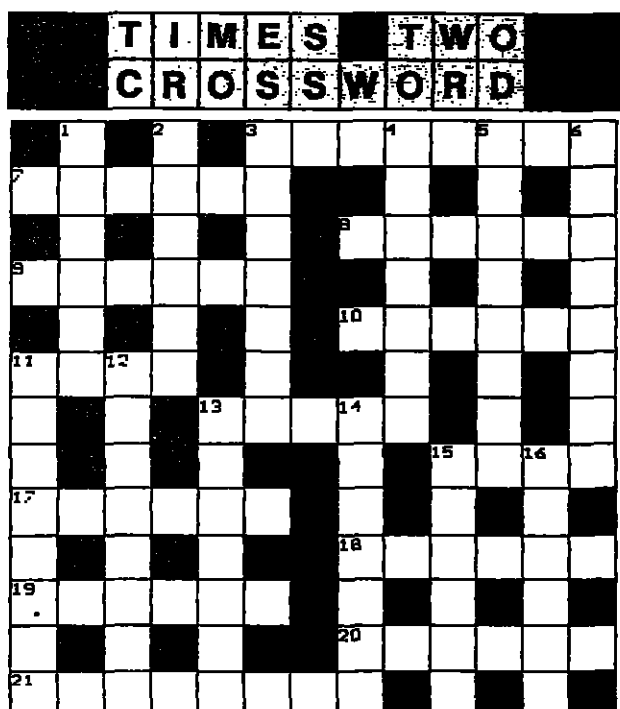
Coca-Cola Cup draw, page 41

## Atherton to lead twin winter tours

MICHAEL ATHERTON, of Lancashire, was yesterday re-appointed as England cricket captain for this winter's tours to Zimbabwe and New Zealand. If Atherton, 28, plays in all five Tests on the tours, he will start next season only one match short of the England captaincy record. Peter May led the side on 41 occasions.

The selectors and myself are delighted Mike has accepted the offer to captain England this winter," Raymond Illingworth, chairman of the selection panel, said. Since taking over from Graham Gooch, Atherton has scored 2,892 Test runs at an average of 47.40. There seems no reason, other than back problems which afflict him from time to time, why Atherton should not, break the record against Australia next summer.

Ageless Gooch, page 40



No 880

### ACROSS

- 3 Lay medical help (5,3)
- 7 A particular mil. team (6)
- 8 "John — was a citizen" (Copper) (6)
- 9 Grab: part of shirt (6)
- 10 Have esteem for (6)
- 11 Call a halt (4)
- 13 A cat: a silk fabric (5)
- 15 Add alcohol to (drink) (4)
- 17 Lighters: gets narrower (6)
- 18 Nine-day prayer cycle (6)
- 19 Commemorative tablet: tooth film (6)
- 20 Capture in snare (6)
- 21 In any place (than) (8)

### DOWN

- 1 Deeply religious (6)
- 2 (Horse) make top speed (6)
- 3 Peninsular US state (7)
- 4 Tall and too thin (7)
- 5 Class inc. new, frog (8)
- 6 Ballet girl (Fr.) (8)
- 11 Left-handed boxer (8)
- 12 How the easily-acquired is handed (2,1,5)
- 13 Infill great pain (on) (7)
- 14 Bad mistake (7)
- 15 Unseriousness (6)
- 16 Joseph —, Polish-born author (6)

The solution to 879 will be published Wednesday, September 11

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# France refuses to patrol widened Iraq no-fly zone

By BEN MACINTYRE  
IN PARIS AND  
MICHAEL BINYON

FRANCE last night refused to help in patrolling the extended "no-fly" zone over southern Iraq but agreed to continue patrolling areas previously declared off-limit to Iraqi aircraft, as the post-Gulf War coalition showed further signs of strain.

After a meeting between Warren Christopher, the American Secretary of State, and President Chirac, Paris said its participation in surveillance missions in both northern and southern Iraq would continue, but that French planes would not fly over the extended exclusion zone that was established on Wednesday.

America and Britain had earlier agreed to monitor the air exclusion zones without French help, if Paris maintained its uncooperative stance towards American airstrikes in Iraq. Paris has insisted the extension of the no-fly zone to the 33rd parallel

## SPLIT ALLIES

on the outskirts of Baghdad was a "unilateral" American decision. The move has been supported by Britain. During recent days French fighters have patrolled only south of the 30th parallel, covering Kuwait airspace and an area of south Iraq.

In a statement issued after Mr Christopher's talks with his French counterpart, Hervé de Charette, France said its planes would only monitor south of the 32nd parallel, where the no-fly zone was fixed at the end of the Gulf War. Mr Christopher's failure to secure full French support for the extended no-fly zone is the latest sign of the French Government's determination to distance itself from Washington's actions in Iraq.

The French decision will take effect on Monday, September 9, the Foreign Ministry said, adding that it had received assurances from the Americans that Operation Desert Storm is over. Earlier,

Mr Christopher discussed the French position with Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, during a visit to London. Speaking after his 90-minute meeting, Mr Christopher thanked Britain for its "unwavering" support, and said this underlined the extraordinary partnership between America and Britain. "We are very grateful to Prime Minister Major, Foreign Secretary Rifkind and the entire British Government."

Mr Rifkind said that President Saddam Hussein's incursion into Kurdish territory had produced a clear and unambiguous outcome. The airstrikes had shown that his behaviour had had damaging results for his regime. Mr Rifkind added: "It is crucially necessary that whenever he initiates repression or aggression that he should end up losing more than he thinks he has gained."

British officials were still optimistic last night that the revised British draft UN Security Council resolution, dropping any outright condemnation of Baghdad for the invasion of Western-protected safe area city of Arbil, would muster enough votes and would not be vetoed by Russia. They expected, however, that France was still likely to abstain.

Officials noted that for the past two years France had taken a softer line on Iraq at the United Nations, clearly believing that the situation was not comparable to 1991. However, they also saw in France's refusal to support America an attempt in Paris to establish a strong French presence in the Middle East, and a long-term calculation that this would put France in a good position to win Iraqi oil and trade contracts once the UN sanctions were lifted. With millions of pounds worth of potential deals at stake when sanctions end, France has emphasised its concern for the territorial integrity of Iraq.

Britain believes no further strikes against Iraq are likely or necessary, but everything depends on Saddam's behaviour. All the signs were he was trying to avoid confrontation with the allies.



Armed Kurdistan Democratic Party fighters keep vigil outside the parliament building in Arbil yesterday

## White House scrutinises effect of attacks on President's popularity

FROM IAN BRODIE  
IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON has the backing of four out of five Americans for his missile attacks on Iraq, according to a poll published yesterday. However, few expect the strikes to stop President Saddam Hussein from breaking the terms of the Gulf War ceasefire again.

The strength of support for Mr Clinton was welcomed at the White House where aides are keeping a scorecard of pluses and minuses from the President's short, sharp foray into missile diplomacy.

The poll seems to suggest that the Iraqi episode is unlikely to dent Mr Clinton's 21-point lead over Bob Dole, his Republican challenger for the presidency, and could increase it. While the Clinton camp

## US OPINION

officially disavowed that the missile strike was related to the election campaign, the brief onslaught did, of course, stifle criticism of the President as a foreign-policy lightweight who lacks military experience.

Mr Clinton's unilateral decision to "punish" Saddam pre-empted the political bombardment he would have suffered from Mr Dole and other Republicans if he had done nothing. Mr Dole was already building a case against President Clinton's implied weak leadership when he was silenced by the attack on Saddam's missile sites.

Only Ross Perot, the maverick Reform Party candidate, has criticised Mr Clinton since the raids. He complained that "war is not a place for a

politician to create a positive image and get a bump in the polls". By contrast, General Colin Powell, America's senior officer during the Gulf War and now a popular Republican, said Mr Clinton had done exactly the right thing.

Also on the plus side, Mr Clinton has commanded a bigger "no-fly zone" in southern Iraq, leaving Saddam "strategically worse off than before". True, the expanded buffer zone is about 200 miles from the fighting in northern Iraq that prompted the retaliation, but the White House still believes that it will be a lesson to Saddam.

There is no question that by moving the exclusion zone from the 32nd to the 33rd parallel, an advance of 70 miles, Mr Clinton has severely restricted the Iraqi leader's capacity to train his air force

and to manoeuvre troops into positions where they could again threaten Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

On the minus side, however, the Gulf War coalition has been weakened by Mr Clinton's decision to use force rather than to engage in haggling at the United Nations. France, a loyal participant in the no-fly missions until now, is refusing to fly in the expanded area. The United States was denied permission to fly raids from three neighbouring countries, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Jordan. Russia objected strongly to the action.

Given these negative voices, it is ridiculous for William Perry, the American Defence Secretary, to claim that the coalition has been strengthened rather than weakened by the raids.

## Juppé is ready to rock the Euro clock

By BEN MACINTYRE  
IN PARIS AND  
ROGER BOYES  
IN BONN

FRENCH and German clocks may soon be out of sync if a French plan to drop the twice-yearly changing of the clocks takes effect. But the change would bring Anglo-French time in step for the summer months.

With typical Gallic insouciance, Alain Juppé, the French Prime Minister, has yet to opt either for summer or winter time but he sees no point in retaining the twice-yearly ritual which means millions losing an hour's sleep each spring.

As he prepared to impose the measure on Brussels, he said: "The twice-yearly time-change is less and less understood by our fellow citizens, while providing no obvious economic advantages."

There is dismay among British companies which will count the cost in bureaucratic chaos. Technically, it could mean that the Eurostar train will take four hours to get to Paris rather than three.

Jim Rowe, of Eurostar, said: "Different time zones are particularly difficult for business people. They are already having to get a train from Waterloo at 5am to ensure they arrive in central Paris for a 9.30am meeting. Clearly if we get to a situation where there is a permanent two-hour time difference between the French and us, then it is going to be very difficult."

M Juppé's tentative plan gave fuel yesterday to Bonn's emerging suspicions about the Chirac era: the French seem no longer to be synchronising their watches with the Germans.

In practical terms a lost hour will reduce the much-trumpeted co-ordinating talks between the French and German civil services. Ministries of the two countries are supposed to hold regular consultations about European and specifically Franco-German projects. If M Juppé goes ahead with his idea to turn back the clock, then the Franco-German relationship, at least at the bureaucratic level, will suffer.

## Missile strikes dent Saddam's defences

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

### MILITARY

THE combination of American air-launched and sea-launched cruise missiles did sufficient damage to the Iraqi air defence network in southern Iraq to put it out of effective action for months, according to the assessment of satellite and aerial reconnaissance photographs.

Although the Iraqis will still have a limited capability to shoot down American, British or French aircraft patrolling the region, a successful strike would be a "matter of luck", according to Western intelligence sources. Yesterday patrols went ahead without incident, with American fighters flying in the newly expanded "no-fly" zone between the 32nd and 33rd parallels.

Pentagon experts have been examining photographic evidence of the damage achieved

by the American strikes on Tuesday and Wednesday, which involved a total of 44 air-launched cruise missiles, and sea-launched Tomahawks, fired by surface warships and one nuclear-powered submarine.

Since the 1991 Gulf War and the Tomahawk attacks carried out in 1993, the Iraqis have reconstituted the whole of the air defence network. Key elements of the national system were rebuilt at two airbases south of Baghdad. The latest cruise missile attacks were targeted on 15 air defence systems on these two bases and neighbouring sites. Western sources said there had been "satisfactory damage" to these facilities.

## Clinton faces campaign setback as Whitewater aide is put on the spot

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton faced an unexpected threat to his reelection last night after a former partner in Whitewater was ordered to tell a grand jury whether the American leader had lied under oath.

Susan McDougal, 41, who has refused repeated prosecution efforts to gain her cooperation, was given until Monday to testify about the President's role in the failed Arkansas land venture or expect a sentence of up to 18 months for contempt of court.

One of three past business associates and friends of the First Family convicted on fraud and conspiracy charges in May, including her former husband, Jim McDougal, who has made a deal to assist the prosecution, McDougal has already been sentenced to two years in prison.

Despite the pressure of a further term behind bars, there was no suggestion yesterday that she would change her mind next week. "These people are not interested in the truth," said McDougal, who claimed she would never answer questions about the Clintons. "They are just interested in getting Bill Clinton."

Her silence, however, is certain to focus Republican attention on a possible

Whitewater cover-up and the issue of character at a time when Mr Clinton had been enjoying high poll ratings in the wake of the Chicago convention and the American bombing of Iraq. It also suggests that the grand jury in Little Rock has now reached the Clinton phase of its investigation. McDougal had been asked three questions, all of which related to the President, before she was led from court for refusing to answer.

McDougal said prosecutors had demanded whether Mr Clinton knew about an illegal \$300,000 (£192,000) loan made to her in 1986 and about

property in which the Whitewater corporation had an interest. Finally, she said, she had been asked: "Did William Jefferson Clinton testify truthfully at your trial?"

During the past few years, both McDougals, who owned Madison Guaranty, the bank at the heart of Whitewater, have said they have no information that could incriminate either Mr Clinton or his wife, Hillary. And they have each accused Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, of leading a politically motivated witch hunt.

Since the start, investigators have been attempting to prove that Whitewater was in some way intended by the McDougals as a sop to compensate Mr Clinton, the then Governor of Arkansas, for political favours. They believe that co-operation by Susan McDougal, or others involved in the Arkansas of the 1980s, may be all that stands in the way of indictments. Although charges are unlikely to be brought against the President before the election, speculation continues to centre on Mrs Clinton's future.

McDougal was convicted in May of misusing the \$300,000 loan that she had borrowed from a federally backed small

investment company owned by David Hale, an Arkansas banker. Hale, the government's chief witness in the Whitewater trial, claimed he had loaned her the money under duress from Mr Clinton. But in his videotaped testimony in defence of the McDougals and Jim Guy Tucker, his successor as Arkansas Governor, Mr Clinton insisted he knew nothing of the loan.

In an interview with ABC, McDougal said she had often considered co-operating with Mr Starr. "It is tempting every time they put the carrot before my eyes," she also insisted the Clintons had never lied, but added: "I have wondered why they couldn't tell everything just out open and honest and simple and easy."

□ Benign cyst: A cyst on Mr Clinton's neck was removed on Wednesday in an operation that lasted about 15 minutes, the White House said. Officials said it was benign, but it would be sent for analysis.

Its removal comes amid calls from Mr Clinton's Republican rival, Bob Dole, that the President release all his medical records. Mr Dole, 73, has released extensive medical records to show he is in good health. (AFP)

to damage the strategic capabilities of Mr Morris, who has already started a tactical rehabilitation of himself.

Random House, the New York publishers, announced it had bought the political consultant's personal account of his successful remoulding of Mr Clinton following the disastrous mid-term elections in 1994. It said the book would be published after the election, but has offered no insight into the unusual deal.

Recognising that his value will be strongest in the next two months, Mr Morris is also said to have approached CBS about the possibility of working as a network consultant.

"You have to ask whether someone who is ethically corrupt, who cheated on his wife with a hooker, has the dignity to sit on the set with Dan Rather," said one network executive. "On the other hand, this guy was very close to the President

## Disgraced strategist plots his comeback

By TOM RHODES

DICK MORRIS, the Democrats' campaign strategist who resigned in disgrace, was already masterminding a personal comeback yesterday as the latest consequence of his sexual exploits caused immediate political embarrassment to Hillary Clinton.

In her first television interview, Sherry Rowlands, the prostitute who sold a lurid account of her long-standing affair with Mr Morris, has revealed that she overheard a supposedly private telephone conversation between the President and his chief strategist.

During the conversation, Ms Rowlands claimed Mr Clinton stated that the numerous scandals surrounding the First Lady had caused her to suffer ill health. "Hillary answered the phone and

when he came back he sounds really mad and he said, 'Look, Dick, I would prefer you not to use this phone any more.'" Ms Rowlands told *Hard Copy*, a tabloid show which will air throughout the United States this week.

She said Mr Clinton added: "You can understand Hillary is upset. My wife is not well. You know, with all the Whitewater trial and everything. She is not well. You know the regular lines. Do not call the private residence any more."

The latest revelations are likely to anger Mrs Clinton, who has been enjoying her own renaissance since the Chicago convention. Indeed, she had telephoned Mr Morris to console him after Ms Rowlands sold her story to the *Star* newspaper last week.

Ms Rowlands' candid diary, more of which is to be published on Monday,

is expected to cause a major setback

to damage the strategic capabilities of Mr Morris, who has already started a tactical rehabilitation of himself.

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# Peter Graf battles to keep Steffi out of court



Peter Graf in court as the trial started yesterday. "Our daughter in no way knew about our financial and tax affairs, she left it to me. I had the authority to sign"

## Defence team in tax-fraud case blames chaotic German system

FROM ROGER BOYES IN MANNHEIM

THE first game seemed to go Steffi Graf's way yesterday as lawyers and her father, looking sallow after 13 months in jail, fought hard to keep her out of Germany's most controversial tax evasion case.

Instead of dragging the world's number one women's tennis player into the trial of her father, defence lawyers in effect put the whole German tax system in the dock. There were hints, too, that the trial, expected to last until January, would expose how celebrities are given political protection.

Peter Graf, a 58-year-old used car dealer, is accused of hiding his daughter's earnings by setting up a web of offshore companies. He and his financial adviser, Joachim Eckardt, could receive sentences of up to ten years in jail if found guilty. Miss Graf has already made DM20 million (£13.5 million) available to the taxpayer, pending the outcome of the trial.

"Our daughter in no way knew about our financial and tax affairs, she left it to me," Herr Graf said in an emotionally charged voice. It was his first public appearance since watching her win Wimbledon in 1995. "I had the authority to sign contracts, open accounts, make transfers," he said.

This version is disputed by Horst Schmitt, one of the prosecution's key witnesses. The former petrol-station manager was part of the Graf court and

remembers a family meeting — attended by Miss Graf — at which the structure of the tax-evasion companies was set out. Miss Graf denies being there.

Her absence from the trial is one of its mysteries, since it is her income that was diverted. In a recent interview, she said: "I was happy to concentrate on playing tennis and leave the financial matters to others. I can see now that was not perhaps quite right." Yet neither the prosecution nor Herr Graf's defence team has subpoenaed her. Herr Eckardt's lawyers hinted they might call her as a witness, but that was understood to be a threat to the Graf team not to shift all the blame onto Herr Eckardt.

At the heart of the trial is the complex relationship between Miss Graf and her father, who trained and, in many ways, developed her skills. His control over her was total, reports say he used to kick her if she played a poor shot. Herr Graf became addicted to tablets and drank heavily, but wife Heidi, Steffi and her brother learnt to live with his moods.

Part of Herr Graf's personal defence yesterday was that he lost control of himself. Her string of successes from 1989 propelled the family into the financial big-time, and the cream of German and international industry paid court to her. With sponsorship money flowing in and celebrity parties

to attend, Herr Graf, as he admitted yesterday, lost control.

But Professor Franz Salditt, his defence lawyer, explained that the flaws were as much to do with the system as they were personal. Why, for example, did it take the German inland revenue so long to pursue the Grafs? Herr Graf's explanation is simple: "We were promised that tax exile would not be necessary," he said yesterday.

Plainly, after German unification — when taxes began to rise steeply — politicians were nervous that Germany's superstars would move. Like the three-time Wimbledon champion Boris Becker to Monaco. Miss Graf wanted to stay in Germany and Bonn was happy to have a German heroine remain at home.

"I gained the impression that there were many possibilities to lessen our tax burden, and most high earners were doing precisely that. I felt stupid for not undertaking something similar," Herr Graf said.

Professor Salditt said the case demonstrated the chaotic state of German tax law. The prosecutor shot back: "Don't present this case as the Government Moloch pitted against the little man... it's not like that."

The ball was knocked over the net a few more times, but day one of the trial concluded with advantage to Miss Graf.

US Open, page 41



Steffi Graf "I was happy to concentrate on playing tennis and leave the financial matters to others"

## Post-communist women challenge office sex pests

BY ROGER BOYES

SEXUAL harassment of female employees has become a burning issue in Central Europe for the first time since the fall of communism.

The sacking of Frantisek Batrla, a 57-year-old bank manager who was accused of

making suggestive comments to women staff, has shocked Prague. Under the former regime some degree of sexual banter and supposedly playful physical contact was regarded as a normal part of office life; the footage of Boris Yeltsin, the Russian President, tickling his secretary before an official

meeting showed that in the Kremlin at least not much has changed. But as capitalism makes inroads into the post-communist world, so do Anglo-American guidelines on office relationships.

The case of Mr Batrla shows how quickly attitudes are shifting. When Mr Batrla's

female deputy complained in July that he had frequently fondled her and questioned her about her sex life, the bank stood solidly behind the male manager. Two other women had supported her claim. The woman was later sacked.

The bank later performed a U-turn after Mr Batrla's secre-

tary complained that he had been sexually harassing her. Worried that its image was suffering, it sacked Mr Batrla. Although women's rights campaigners in the Czech Republic claimed an important victory, the bank said it would not reinstate the dismissed woman.

## Nato 'shoot to kill' threat after Serbs block patrol

FROM REUTERS IN SARAJEVO

NATO warned Bosnian Serb leaders yesterday after a British army patrol was forced to fire into the air to disperse a hostile crowd in Serb territory.

"Yesterday the soldiers chose to fire a warning shot. The next time the consequences could be fatal," Admiral Joseph Lopez, American commander of the Nato-led peace force (Ifor) in Bosnia, said. "Our troops will do what is necessary and prudent if they are required to protect the lives of other Ifor troops," his statement said.

A British patrol was escorting two Serb police armoured vehicles in the northwest town of Banja Luka on Wednesday when it discovered unauthorised vehicles and weapons in the convoy, including an anti-aircraft gun, a multiple-barrelled rocket launcher and a 12.7 mm machinegun, Nato spokesmen said.

While the ten-member patrol moved to confiscate the

weapons and vehicles, an angry crowd of 200 civilians surrounded the British soldiers. Major Brett Boudreau, for Nato, said. When some tried to overturn one of the British patrol's Land-Rovers, the senior officer on the spot, a sergeant, fired a warning shot into the air from his pistol, dispersing the crowd. Major Boudreau said.

The British patrol drove on with the confiscated weapons, but when it stopped to regroup it was surrounded again by a crowd and Serb police cars. To defuse tensions, the confiscated weapons were taken to a Bosnian Serb army barracks in the area temporarily.

Major Boudreau said that the British eventually moved the weapons to the local Ifor base on the outskirts of Banja Luka.

Major Boudreau said that the Bosnian Serb Army and a local police chief co-operated with Nato but singled out the

Serb Interior Ministry units as extremely hostile. The Ifor commander also warned Biljana Plavsic, the Bosnian Serb Acting President, of the seriousness of the incident and "insisted that she take responsibility for her police and the actions of her people".

Admiral Lopez was stern. He told Bosnian Serb leaders: "Our soldiers are trained and are authorised to shoot to kill in order to defend themselves and others. It is not our intent to harm anyone, but when threatened we will respond."

Nato officers planned to hold talks with Dragan Kijac, the Bosnian Serb Interior Minister, over the incident. Mr Kijac was reprimanded recently over police attacks on Muslims trying to return to their homes.

The confrontation in Banja Luka coincides with rising tensions across Bosnia before postwar elections are held on September 14.

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# Buthelezi apologises to ANC for years of violence

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

IN AN extraordinary submission before South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the head of the Zulu-led Inkatha Freedom Party, apologised to President Mandela and other African National Congress leaders on behalf of his party, but he denied any personal role in the political violence of the apartheid era.

"From my part I wish to say that I am sorry for any hurt I have caused the ANC leadership," Chief Buthelezi, the Home Affairs Minister, told Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the commission chairman, and his seven-member panel. During his submission, Chief Buthelezi sharply rebuked the former white Government and his ANC rivals, who were accused of plotting to assassinate him in 1987.

Chief Buthelezi denied any personal role in the bloody confrontation between rival Inkatha and ANC supporters that has left 15,000 dead in KwaZulu/Natal since the mid-1980s. However, he apologised for the fact that Inkatha members had been drawn into the conflict and acknowledged that "the buck stops right in front of me". He said: "I know that because we are human beings, and there-

fore sinners, that we shall still hurt each other even tomorrow. I nevertheless apologise for the past hurts and I do so on behalf of my followers."

Inkatha has been one of the fiercest opponents of the Truth Commission and the appearance yesterday of its leader and his apology was something of a coup for Archbishop Tutu. In an apparent snide reference to the Anglican cleric, a figurehead in the struggle against apartheid, Chief Buthelezi said the country needed apologies from "some of South Africa's more political clergy".

The submissions from South African parties mark



Archbishop Tutu: head of the truth commission

the second phase of the work of the truth commission, which aims to confront the country's troubled past and to heal the divisions by trying to detail and determine responsibility for atrocities committed during the apartheid era. Frank Mdalose, the Inkatha Chairman and Premier of KwaZulu/Natal, told the commission about ANC plots to assassinate Chief Buthelezi and to wipe out Inkatha.

Referring to a "top secret" document that detailed a 1987 plot by the ANC to assassinate Chief Buthelezi, the party's submission said that a religious leader, who disclosed the details and was later assassinated, had said the ANC hoped that "eliminating" Chief Buthelezi would deal a death blow to Inkatha. The chief was ruler of the KwaZulu homeland at that time. The party's submission said that in a letter dated March 1986 the ANC had ordered one of its fighters to carry out the assassination.

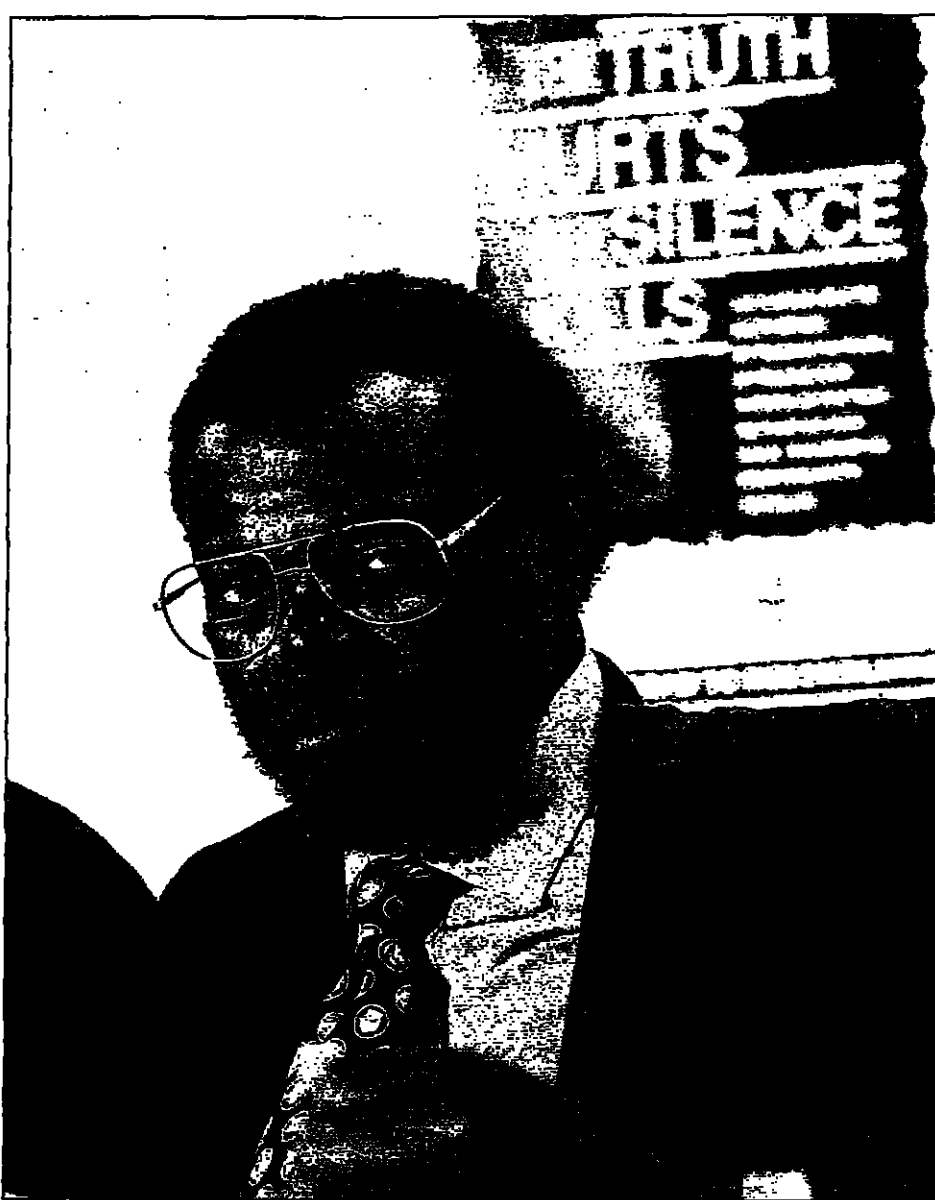
Inkatha said its submission provided "hard facts" that rebutted ANC denials of plans to kill Chief Buthelezi, and the party called on the commission to use its powers to discover further details of the plot. The Inkatha submission also accused the ANC of

orchestrating a war against its supporters and killing 420 members since the start of last year alone.

Inkatha's submission followed presentations last month by the ANC and National Party about their role in the apartheid era, during which apologies were offered. About 1,000 additional policemen were deployed in Johannesburg and Soweto yesterday to intensify the war against crime and allay growing public anxiety.

The deployment coincided with the publication of a survey that showed that most South Africans do not believe they are safe from crime. The poll found that 71.4 per cent of respondents wanted capital punishment reinstated, compared with 62 per cent last year.

**Widow's words:** Graça Machel, the widow of President Machel of Mozambique, has spoken publicly for the first time about her relationship with Mr Mandela and said there is no prospect of her marrying him. Mrs Machel, 50, who speaks to Mr Mandela twice a day by phone, said she will not marry him despite the warmth of her feelings. "I belong to Mozambique. I will always be the wife of Samora Machel."



Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi during his submission yesterday to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. He took the opportunity to rebuke his ANC rivals

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Sex-ring suspect arrested

Brussels: Police made their tenth arrest in Belgium's paedophile ring yesterday as the country prepared for the burial of two teenage victims. Annie Bouty, a companion of Jean-Michel Nihoul, who has been charged with criminal association with Marc Duiron, was arrested after questioning in the Neufchâteau headquarters of the the paedophile inquiry. (Reuters)

## Election patrol

Dhaka: Bangladeshi soldiers patrolled districts where voting was taking place to fill 15 seats left vacant after the parliamentary elections. Five people died in the campaign violence last week. (AP)

## Peking in dock

Peking: A court has agreed to hear an action by Liu Nianchun, the veteran dissident, accusing Peking of illegal imprisonment, but lawyers are under pressure not to take his case. (Reuters)

## Copt beheaded

Miaya, Egypt: Islamic militants in a Minya province village shot dead Ashraf Nabi Tawfik, 45, a Coptic Christian municipal worker, hacked off his head and escaped with it, police said. (AFP)

## Rao questioned

Delhi: Federal police for the first time questioned P.V. Narasimha Rao, the former Prime Minister, about allegations that he bribed politicians to win support for his Government. (AP)

## Zafy impeached

Antananarivo: The President of Madagascar, Albert Zafy, agreed to step down after the High Constitutional Court confirmed his impeachment. The Prime Minister will take over his duties. (Reuters)

## Scant reward

Delhi: More than 1,000 teachers walked naked, or wearing only underwear or loincloths, through the streets here, protesting that the Government has not paid them for years. There were no arrests. (AP)

## Cambodia troops foster Khmer Rouge feud

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN ARANYAPRATHET, THAILAND

THE first serious armed clash between Khmer Rouge guerrillas loyal to Pol Pot, their murderous leader, and break-away rebel fighters has flared 100 miles northeast of this Thailand-Cambodia frontier town with more than 400 refugees fleeing into Cambodia.

The battle, involving two artillery strikes and a ground attack, occurred at the Khmer Rouge village of Chhup Koki, in wooded territory. Pol Pot guerrillas are in control of the village. The Khmer Rouge dissidents defending the jungle base received unprecedented help as the Government sent up to 700 troops to their rescue.

General Nheuk Bunchhay, deputy chief of staff for the

Government's forces, said the troops were sent to help the dissidents to keep control of Chhup Koki, in the Banteay Meanchey province. The joint operation between former enemies underscored the importance that the Phnom Penh Government is putting on peace negotiations with the dissidents, hoping to cement a split among the guerrillas and hasten an end to civil war.

The reinforcements were sent as Ieng Sary, the dissident leader, met Cambodian Co-Ministers of Defence in Thailand in a new round of peace negotiations. Participants described them as successful.

The ministers discussed the prospects of a royal pardon for the dissident leader and the

integration of his breakaway group. "We have held frank discussions in a good and sincere atmosphere. We agreed to consider amnesty for him [Ieng Sary]," Tea Banh, a minister, said yesterday.

Ieng Sary heads the faction that last month split from the Maoist Khmer Rouge guerrilla group led by Pol Pot. The meeting was his first direct contact with senior Cambodian leaders. Speculation has been growing that Pol Pot, 69, under whose rule a million people were killed in Cambodia, may have died, but Khmer Rouge sources insist this is not the case.

At the same time, a rebel Khmer Rouge commander, Vong Nari, who was pushed with 100 of his fighters into

Thai territory, said he saw Pol Pot just a month ago at the northern Khmer Rouge headquarters at Anlong Veng.

Mr Vong said that 50 of his men were still in Cambodia guarding a weapons cache that Thai troops protecting the border were not permitted to take into Thailand.

Mr Vong said that in mid-August, after hearing that guerrillas loyal to Ieng Sary had led a revolt against the hardline leadership of the Khmer Rouge, he had led his men in driving out the Khmer Rouge commander in Chhup Koki. So Hong, Pol Pot's nephew.

He said So Hong had fled to Anlong Veng, but in the past few days had returned with a force of 400 fighters who

attacked under two artillery barrages of 15 and 40 minutes and driven Mr Vong's forces out with 49 families. The UNHCR representative on the border was at the site of the improvised refugee camp yesterday assessing their needs.

Mr Vong said he knew that 90 per cent of other Khmer Rouge wanted to join the rebels, and suggested that Pol Pot himself was isolated.

Pol Pot's top military commander, the feared Ta Mok, had been cut off by the earlier revolt and was now desperately trying to reach Anlong Veng to save off any further defections. Ta Mok, known in Cambodia as "The Butcher", is a one-legged general who is probably the most feared of all the Khmer Rouge.

## Subway worker tells of Tokyo gas attack

FROM REUTERS IN TOKYO

SHOKO ASAHARA, the Japanese doomsday cult leader, sat impassively yesterday through his first courtroom encounter with witnesses to last year's poison gas attack on the Tokyo subway.

Mr Asahara, 41, accused of ordering disciples of his Aum Shinrikyo (Supreme Truth Sect) to release the nerve gas sarin on rush-hour subway trains in March 1995, showed no emotion as a subway worker described the attack, which killed 11 people and made 5,500 ill. As on six previous occasions, he refused to enter a plea on any of the 17 murder, attempted murder and weapons and drug production charges he faces.

The subway worker, Toshiaki Toyoda, told the district court here of the frantic morning when two of his co-workers were killed in the main attack on Kasumigaseki subway station. He and co-workers, Kazumasa Takahashi and Tsuneo Hishinuma, who both later died, struggled to remove sarin-filled plastic bags from subway carriages. "Mr Takahashi lay there with his eyes open but gave no response when I called him," said Mr Toyoda.

Mr Toyoda wrapped the plastic bags in newspapers and then passed out. He said that he later spent six weeks in hospital in serious condition.

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# The Gunpowder Plot, a passion for Heat and a hatred of fire

Lady Antonia Fraser explains why she finds Bonfire Night a deeply unpleasant spectacle

There was never a guy on Bonfire Night for the six children of Lady Antonia Fraser. There is something deeply unpleasant about it, don't you think? Catholic families don't burn guys, if they know anything about November 5. If burning books leads to burning human beings, what does burning effigies lead to?

Four years ago, when she said her next book would be about the Gunpowder Plot, I said: "But there's no love interest." She replied: "I will find one. Trust me." I could not imagine the historian of royal romance and scandal (*Mary Queen of Scots*, *The Six Wives of Henry VIII*) toiling over the shadowy lives of Guy Fawkes and his fellow plotters, cloaked in darkness and doubt, without a glimmer of discernible sex. "But there is spiritual love," she ventures — among noble ladies such as Eliza Vaux, who hid priests in their stately piles. She visited every priest-hole and reports that the trouble with crawling into them is how to get out again. "But I am no stranger to priest-holes. When I was seven, during the war, my brother Thomas and I were evacuated to a house called Water Eaton Manor, which had a priest-hole. I find them absolutely riveting. In one, a priest survived for a fortnight on two biscuits and a jar of quince jelly, which the lady of the manor happened to be carrying when she bundled him in."

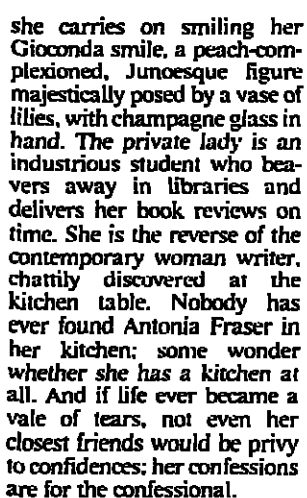
"It is a very vivid thought. Imagine, Harold and I could be sitting over breakfast and have to retreat with only a pot of Coopers' Oxford marmalade to survive on." Bringing history into contemporary focus is her speciality. Four years on, *The Six Wives of Henry VIII* still sells. A new edition will jostle in bookshops alongside *The Gunpowder Plot*. It will also jostle, since the Pakenham family is so productive, with *Perfect Happiness*, her sister Rachel Billington's sequel to *Emma*. Also with *The Gathering Bunker*, a collection of golfing stories by her youngest brother Kevin, a City investment manager.

When not writing, the Pakenhams are celebrating their own longevity, with much to celebrate. After last year's multiple parties for Lord Longford's (Daddy's) 90th birthday, last weekend it was the turn of the matriarch — Elizabeth Longford, who also turned 90. The entire clan, including seven of the great-grandchildren, gathered on the lawn at Bernhurst, where Lady Longford bedecked herself with all her presents, including at least ten silk scarves and a pair of cyclamen pink baller shoes.

Her eldest daughter gave her Chanel No 5, the scent she recalls — "my Proustian memory" — wafting over her in childhood. *The Gunpowder Plot* has been highly praised even by academic historians customarily snuffy about "popular" history, for its scholarship combined with galloping narrative excitement. The consensus is that it reads like a thriller. The author, as former chairman of the Crime Writers' Association, was even more gratified to hear that John le Carré enjoyed it.

It is not often that a book's dedicatees get reviewed, but critics remarked on "Edward, who would have defended them, Lucy who would have hidden them, and Paloma who would have succoured them in exile." All three are her children-in-law: Edward Fitzgerald (husband to Rebecca) the barrister, Lucy Roper-Curzon (wife to Benji) "a descendant of the Ropers, which means she has recusant blood and my grandchildren are connected with the plot", and Paloma (wife to Damian) art museum curator in Mexico, "who is about to produce my first Anglo-Mexican grandchild".

Now 64, and a grandmother nine times, the public Antonia Fraser remains a glowing ornament at social and literary gatherings, where her wit has an epigrammatic Wildean flavour: she once told Robin Day he ought to be ennobled, so that he could become "Lord Day of



THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



into the world of the Wild West, the last cowboys, and Indians, and cowpunching".

Her researches into the extent of the Catholic oppression, and the persecution of priests, at the turn of the 17th century, were a shock even to her. Most of us remember Elizabeth I's "I will not make windows into men's souls". "Queen Elizabeth was very tolerant up to a point, as well she might be, having been born a Catholic. But after all, she ordered the execution of Mary Queen of Scots." In 1613, she records, a Bill was introduced into the House of Commons to compel Catholics to wear a red hat or parti-coloured stockings, like clowns. "It did not succeed, but it reminds us that we shouldn't go about complacently saying we've always been this wonderfully tolerant country."

Only once does the author admit to a personal sense of affront at the Bonfire Night celebrations in Lewes: she is "made uneasy by the sight of the words 'No Popery' on a banner slung across an English street, let alone the burning of a Pope — any Pope — in effigy". As an historian she had written dispassionately, but could not resist commenting on this contemporary ritual. "Even as a child, when I

knew nothing about the Catholic side," (she was a Protestant until converting in her teens, shortly after her mother did) "I thought all burning of human bodies in effigy disgusting. As I don't believe in reincarnation, I can't claim that I was once burnt as a witch. But I have an innate sense of revulsion about destruction by fire."

The grisly details of hanging, drawing and quartering, and the boiling of the heads which turned black are gruesome, and the evidence of Guy Fawkes's torture quite poignant. "Torture got worse in the 16th century, probably introduced by Thomas Cromwell who, when he went abroad, found this wonderful new method of making people behave better. It's against common law, so it has to be done on the law of prerogative. That letter of James which authorises them to start with gentler tortures and proceed to worse and adds 'God speed you in your good work' is pretty awful."

"I think James was clever — as so few of the Stuarts were — essentially a politician and a survivor, and survivors are never incredibly pleasant."

I was struck by the way the crowds would have conversations with the condemned men whose hanging they had come to watch. "Well, it was the letters page of the newspapers for them. There were no newspapers, or television, or votes at elections for ordinary people. The only place they could have their say was at public spectacles like hangings." In another graphic moment she notes that throughout the trial of the eight

surviving conspirators, the defendants were "taking tobacco, as if hanging were no trouble to them", which must have enraged King James, who had just published *A Counter-blaste to Tobacco* — "a custom hateful to the eye, hateful to the nose, harmful to the brain, dangerous to the lungs." And there are people today," as Antonia says, "who would think it worse to be smoking than to try to blow up the House of Lords."

As Harold read the book, he kept saying: "This would make a very good film." The producer Barry Isaacson thought so too, and William Boyd is now writing the script. "It will be a baddie buddy movie," she says, "and tremendously exciting. The hiding places are still there and so are the wonderful houses — Harrowden, Holbeach, Baddesley Clinton, one of the most romantic houses I know." If asked for her view on casting she would suggest Daniel Day-Lewis for Robert Catesby, the dashing, glamorous plotter-in-chief, Sean Connery for Father Garnet, the martyred priest, and Stephen Rea as Guido Fawkes.

As for her next subject, she is returning to romantic love and scandalous intrigue with *Marie Antoinette*, while her daughter Flora, fresh from her success with *Caroline of Brunswick*, tackles the daughters of George III. (*Mater pulchra*, *filia pulchrior*, murmurs the mother graciously.) Some day, someone will undertake an even more remarkable and complex biography of the women of the Pakenham dynasty, all born with a silver pen in their hands. "Perhaps a grandchild of mine will write it," she said. "There are plenty of them. Who knows?"

● The Gunpowder Plot, Wiedenfeld, £20.

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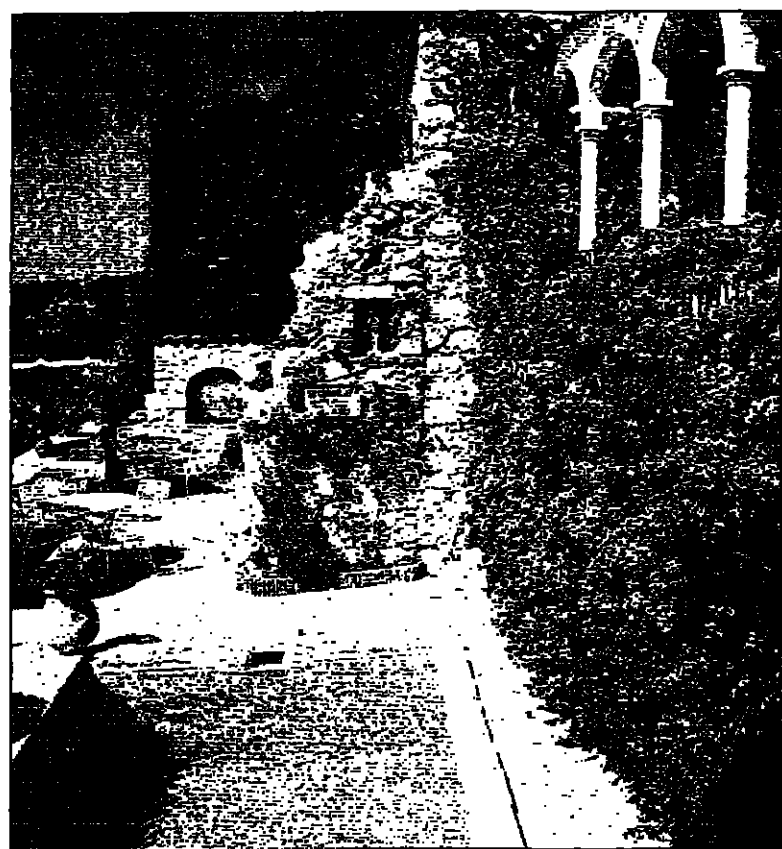
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# Is Blair betraying the Celts?

Labour's devolution plans are a mess, says Magnus Linklater

Just as Tony Blair's strategy seemed to be well on course, with scarcely a wobble in the opinion polls, trouble is threatening from the most unexpected quarter. A warning light has come on in the election cockpit, and despite some routine adjustment, it continues to flash alarmingly. It has nothing, this time, to do with tax policy or public spending. Instead it is about something that must cause Mr Blair enormous concern — the alienation of his supporters in two parts of the United Kingdom which his spin-doctors must have marked down as rock solid. First in Scotland, now in Wales, there are serious signs of revolt.

The row over Labour's plans, announced last weekend, for a double referendum on the creation of a Scottish parliament has been hugely embarrassing. It has exposed an inept Opposition performance, and a leadership increasingly out of touch with popular opinion. It suggests that Labour is doing what should by most political rules be impossible: losing ground to a deeply unpopular Government on an argument which has hitherto enjoyed massive support. In Wales, disaffection has reached such a pitch that one MP has announced he will actually campaign against a Welsh assembly, one of the party's central commitments.

There are signs of revolt in Scotland and Wales

Some measure of that achievement can be judged from an opinion poll in Scotland on Monday, which showed Labour's lead down by nine points, all the ground being ceded to the great enemy, the Scottish National Party. Just as important has been the reaction of the media — newspapers and television alike — which have traditionally been sympathetic to Labour's cause. Words like "farce", "debacle", "ridicule", "collapse", "silly" and "incompetent" have been the stuff of headlines. The *Scotsman* called it "a pitiful spectacle"; the *Herald* concluded that the party was gambling with the political future of the country, and that if it lost, "Labour will not be forgiven". It is a long time since we have seen language as strong as this in the Scottish press, and for a party which prides itself on its deft handling of the media, it has been a remarkable setback.

At least as interesting is the way these rows on the Celtic fringe have been perceived from London. With barely an exception, they have been ignored. In the case of Wales, where the issue is the imposition of proportional representation against the wishes of Labour's old guard, the rebellion of a left-wing MP, Lew Smith, supported by Allan Rogers and Denzil Davies, is seen as a minor infraction. In Scotland, the complex device of a double referendum to "test off" a threatened revolution in the party has actually been described by Mr Blair as a "mature" decision, a neat solution to a tricky problem. The Shadow Secretary, George Robertson, has been congratulated for his

pragmatic handling of it, and the belief is that the objections, from predictable sources, will soon die down.

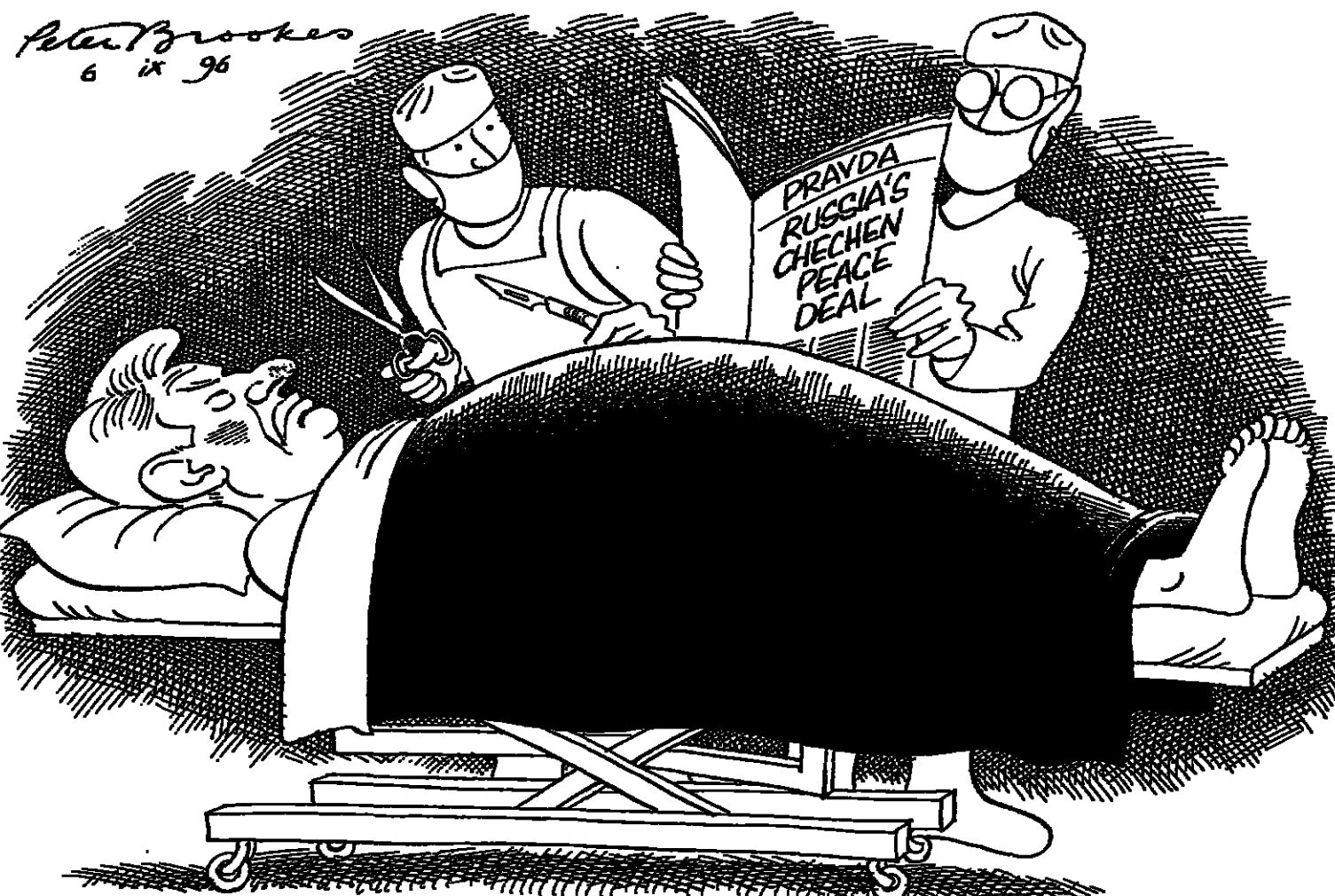
Don't count on it. The danger for Mr Blair is not so much the immediate impact of the decision in Scotland as the way it was reached. It has been seen as the work of an arrogant and remote party leadership in London which sees devolution as more trouble than it is worth, and which relies on its henchmen to devise various means of postponing it. However unfair that view may be — and Mr Robertson becomes exceedingly irritated every time it is suggested — impressions, as any reputable spin-doctor will testify, are what count.

The original decision, announced in June, to hold a referendum on a Scottish parliament, was bad enough. It aroused suspicion because Labour had always argued strenuously that it was unnecessary; it was seen as emanating from London and it caught the local party unawares; having two questions, one on the principle of a parliament, one on its tax-raising powers, was interpreted as a device to ensure that a future parliament would be fiscally emasculated.

And the whole approach meant that difficult questions, on taxation and on relations with Westminster, could be postponed. It was seen, in short, as a delaying tactic.

Despite the protests, the proposals were warmly endorsed by the party leaders as principled and practical. Mr Robertson predicted an overwhelming victory when they were presented to the party's executive, and even suggested that it was, for him, as crucial a decision as John Smith's "one man one vote". The script, however, failed, as so often on these occasions, to turn out the right way. As the vote approached last weekend, defeat began to seem a real possibility. Opponents of the two-question referendum refused to back down. A frantic last-minute compromise produced what frantic last-minute compromises so often do, a muddle. There will, it seems, be not one but two referendums. The first will ask the two questions about the principle and about tax; but just in case voters still have doubts, they will be given a second chance to take a view. As a parliament is actually set up, they really mean it to have tax-raising powers. Already it's being called the "are you sure you're sure?" vote. It is as insulting as it is unnecessary.

The net effect of these two rows is to undermine the confidence of Labour supporters just when it should be unassailable. A party whose main campaigning theme in Wales and Scotland has been the proposition that only Labour can deliver self-government has introduced the dangerous virus of doubt. And for a leadership that has placed unity and discipline at the centre of its strategy, it suggests that these qualities are in short supply. Time, perhaps, for the pilot to attend to the controls.



"MUST BE A CHANGE OF HEART..."

## Hiding from humanity

When recluses become hermits, should we save them from themselves?

There's nowt so queer as folk. But when the queerness turns into something truly terrible, we wonder yet again that human beings can do things that we believed could not be done.

Imagine it is 1966, just 30 years ago. The war in Vietnam was raging, the Berlin Wall had not long been put up, drugs were just about to start their rampant progress. Albert Speer had got out of prison, the Moors murders were in everyone's mind, Lowry had had his first big exhibition.

Harold Wilson was Prime Minister, Lurca's tapestries were seen in Britain for the first time, we had won the World Cup and everyone was in love with Twiggy. And then there was Desmond Lockwood. And then there was Karen Morgan. I shall begin with Desmond Lockwood.

The boy was a very ordinary boy; the only picture of him shows a charming smile. No one would or could have guessed what might follow. Desmond Lockwood was a young building worker; he was 19. His pleasant attitude and demeanour suggests that he worked well. But he lost his job. It is unlikely that he lost it because of bad work or behaviour; in those days employers sacked and took on workers very casually.

So it was not a very remarkable thing to happen. But in Desmond Lockwood it caused a kind of rage, and he took the rejection as a personal slight from society. "Damn it," he said to his older brother, "if that is the way they treat people, I'm not working any more." Nor did he, ever.

Now we turn to Karen Morgan. She was a bright young woman, winning a place at Bexley Grammar School. But there was darkness in her, and she, like Desmond Lockwood, had decided that the darkness was where she wanted to be. So she, like Desmond Lockwood, rolled down the blinds. She was 16 years old when she went into her last stopping place, and she lived in the darkness for 13 years, and died in it.

The word that obviously comes to the surface, is of course "mad". It is much too easily spoken. Take first, Desmond Lockwood, when he decided to lock himself away. Did he think that he would remain self-immured for the rest of his life? Or was he just trying it on — making fools of the family? Remember his last words before he went into the cave: "Damn

it, if that is the way they treat people. I'm not working." How many hundreds of annoyed family members have thrown the milk-jug across the room and shouted "I'm never coming back!" And how many *didn't* come back? One in a hundred? One in a thousand?

Well, we know one now. Desmond Lockwood said he was not coming back, nor did he. So what did he do in the darkness, for thirty years? Well, he had television, but in those days — remember we are in 1966 — the fare would have been pretty thin and repetitive. Pause, reader, at that thought. We can collect bits and pieces from the hermit and his relatives; after all, he had to eat. It is said that he ate nothing but ice-cream and drank nothing but tea; surely he would have died from such a regimen? But it seems otherwise: the bonny lad who started this turned into a 15-stoner, but didn't die until he was 49. Mind you, his hair grew so long that it reached his waist, and he eventually sported a 2ft beard.

Yet there is no evidence that he yearned for the outside world; indeed when anyone came near him, he vanished immediately. Mad or sane, he lived as he wanted to live, and who should rebuke him? The story of Karen Morgan is somewhat parallel, but in this case there is tragedy, very dark tragedy. Desmond Lockwood liked his strange home, but the girl's home was a hell. Not a hell thrust upon her, but one that she had taken to her bosom for herself. For 16 years she lived — if it could be called living — in her bedroom, and never came out, until the pitiful child came out dead.

There is no point in going over the details of the people who lived cheek by jowl with her and apparently did not notice the dreadful dying of Karen Morgan; suffice it to say that they must have been blind, deaf and stupid, until they noticed that she was dead. But what about her relatives? Why

did they not notice? The answer is a terrible one, but one that can be understood. The girl came from a working-class background; when their daughter became unhinged they did not immediately get in touch with the appropriate organisations, indeed they got in touch with nobody. Why? I said it was a working-class area: when their daughter became mentally ill, their immediate response was, in effect "What will the neighbours say?" — and for 16 years Karen Morgan's parents hid the terrible truth, because "they were too ashamed to talk about it to anyone".

Oh, great Heaven, when will such shame die out? The girl might — almost certainly could — have been saved. Saved, that is, from this:

She had been hidden from the world, suffering her own extreme personal torment in a bare first-floor bedroom. She slept on the floorboards with a bucket for a lavatory and her food was left on a tray outside the door. Her brother mirrored her; he was also psychiatrically ill; he too did not venture out into the world for ten years, and when Karen Morgan died, he tried to kill himself.

There's nowt so queer as folk. Karen Morgan suffered as far as suffering can go, and was overlooked. Would you swear that Mr X, whom I see frequently in my neighbourhood, is not burning in dreadful torment? Ridiculous! Is it? How do you know? And if you are certain that there are no chalk-marks on the blackboard, well, what about those people whom I pass without a glance? How do we — you and I — know that perfect outsiders can be hell inside?

Where does the line run? And how far? A cheerful boy loses his job (but at a time when jobs are easily found) and walks into the darkness and stays there for the rest of his life. Nor does he chafe at the darkness; indeed, he lives with the darkness, and it is his lifeline, for what would he have been without television?

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Bernard Levin

## Give talk a chance in Ulster

Patrick Mayhew

says a consensus is still possible

Events in Northern Ireland over the summer have shown that old prejudices can still erupt all too readily. In the past fortnight alone we have seen how destructive internal feuds can be — whether by way of death threats, murders or punishment beatings.

Yet the chief desire of most people in Northern Ireland is for a true peace and political stability. If this can be achieved, so many other objectives become more easily attainable. Primacy in the search for peace and political stability must be given to democratic politics. A settlement acceptable to the majority on both sides of the community has to come first.

That is a challenge I have always welcomed. Under the Prime Minister's determined leadership we have accepted political risks. Reverses have occurred. Yet we have been right to keep trying, and the net advance remains considerable. It is remarkable how widely this view is expressed. From a few reports one would think that everyone is saying we might as well give up. But they are not. Most want us to keep going.

Ultimately, any new political accommodation must be reached by consent. No such accommodation can be imposed from outside. The best means of expression can be found in local political structures, in which local politicians can share real responsibility.

This is why our efforts have been concentrated on producing a mechanism to enable local representatives to come together. All the issues that they think germane to reducing the instability in Northern Ireland should be on the agenda.

It is very clear that these issues extend beyond the borders of Northern Ireland. Nationalists in the North wish to have their Irish identity acknowledged and recognised in any new arrangements. Unionists wish no less to have their British identity recognised. They see the Anglo-Irish agreement as a destabilising factor. It is no less clear that most people in Northern Ireland wish to remain part of the United Kingdom, and I want to make it clear that it is a fact which we warmly welcome.

These are the present realities. The broader the scope of the talks, the better the chances of reaching a successful conclusion. The negotiations should surely be as inclusive as is practicable within the basic democratic principle that participants should use only the force of argument, and not the force of arms.

Despite its political mandate, however, Sinn Féin cannot participate in the negotiations in the absence of an IRA ceasefire. Equally, if Sinn Féin does not, after entry into the political process, demonstrate a total and absolute commitment to the principles of democracy and non-violence set out in the report of the international body, its continued involvement cannot be accepted.

It would be a serious disappointment if Sinn Féin, or for that matter the loyalist parties, were to fail to fulfil the conditions for participation, but it would not mean that the talks would lose their validity.

Even if a political accommodation did not lead directly to an end to violence, it might still greatly reduce the alienation, exclusion, fear and uncertainty on which the men of violence feed. It would give honourable and fair-minded people a greater common interest in standing up to extremists on either side. Firm, effective and even-handed policing can make more progress towards the total elimination of terrorism.

As to any limitation on the agenda — there should be none. Each participating party must have the right to set out and hold firm to points of principle, and to protect its key interests. All of this is reflected in the rules of procedure which the participants have now adopted. This is a crucially important advance. It has taken time, but it has been worthwhile.

Those taking part in the talks have settled upon a definition of agreement which is at once fair, imaginative and effective. They will make every effort to reach agreement by unanimity. But if that proves impossible they have agreed on a minimum standard of "sufficient consensus".

The key feature of "sufficient consensus" is that it makes it impossible to secure any outcome from the talks which is unacceptable to a majority in either of the two main political traditions in Northern Ireland. Additionally, any outcome will be put to the people of Northern Ireland in a referendum. Hence "sufficient consensus" is both a safeguard and a challenge.

The talks process is the realistic way forward from a system of direct rule that denies local responsibility, and has obviously harmful consequences for the politics in the Province. That is why the mood in Northern Ireland, and far more widely, is inclined to "give talk a chance". When the multi-party talks resume next Monday, we shall be doing just that.

Sir Patrick Mayhew is Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

## In the swim

PROJECT NORMA, the Government's bold attempt to field the Prime Minister's wife as a secret weapon for the election campaign, is to annex the airwaves. To win the hearts of the nation, Norma Major has taken Radio 4 on a tour of Chequers, during which she confesses to a personal failing. She has only just learnt to swim — using water wings.

In *Inside Chequers*, to be broadcast this month, Norma suggests that she can now swim like a dolphin after lessons in the swimming pool at Chequers: "I have learnt to swim since I have been here."

Linda Lally, head of the staff of Wrens at Chequers, elaborates: "I couldn't claim credit for teaching her to swim, because she taught herself," she says. "But I was there with her, because we do have a rule that you have to be with someone in the pool."

"She started initially with floats and one of those boards and then got into the water wings. She let a little bit of air out each day then eventually she cracked it. It was really nice. She enjoys going for her early morning swims."

No mention is made in the programme of the Prime Minister's own aquatic exploits, but the broadcast does reveal that Margaret Thatcher had a predilection for a special custard produced by the head chef at Chequers.

There is also talk of Boris Yeltsin's sleeping problems when he visited. The bed he slumbered in at Chequers, previously used by Stalin's right-hand man Molotov, was too small for his corpulent frame. It had to be rebuilt to hold the Russian leader.

The story goes that the driver can't get Kingsley's name right. He keeps calling him Bill, not Ben. And Kingsley, being a very on-bill sort of person, has taken such offence that he has asked for a new driver. Vigorous denials of the tale from the production company have yet to kill this ridiculous rumour-mongering.



"Who woke me up?"

They'll be hanging out hunting in No 10 next week when John Major reaches a milestone in his parliamentary career. Tuesday, September 10, will mark his 2,144th day in Downing Street — the half-way mark along the road to Margaret Thatcher's 4,227 days.

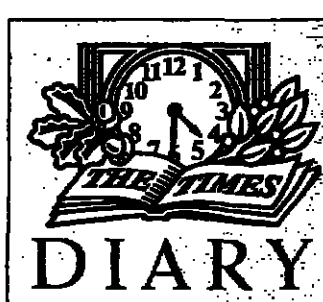
### Chaffinism

AN EXTRAORDINARY rumour concerning the very serious actor Ben Kingsley is doing the rounds backstage. Kingsley has just started filming a movie called *Photographing Fairies* at Ealing Studios, where he has been given the use of a driver.

The story goes that the driver can't get Kingsley's name right. He keeps calling him Bill, not Ben. And Kingsley, being a very on-bill sort of person, has taken such offence that he has asked for a new driver. Vigorous denials of the tale from the production company have yet to kill this ridiculous rumour-mongering.

### On the nose

GRIPPING news for readers of the new *Punch*, which was launched at a very sweaty party full of journalists at Harrods on Wednesday. The magazine's proprietor, Moha-



med Al Fayed, may yet contribute editorially. "Yes, I may write something when I have it up my sleeve," he threatened.

Al Fayed was in good heart, despite an act from Rory Bremner touching on a matter close to the Egyptian's heart: his rejected applications for British citizenship. "Some are born great," said Bremner, "some achieve greatness, and some are still waiting for a letter from the Passport Office."

### Pitch in

NEWS that the five nations' championship will now take place this season will cheer the groundsmen at Twickenham, who have had their work out of late after an invasion of foxes.

"We have had a bit of a problem with them getting in and digging

up the pitch in their hunt for worms," says a Rugby Football Union man. "But we have caught them humanely and released them into woodland areas."

Another threat to the pitch — a rash of field mushrooms — has been simpler to solve. The groundsmen pick them and fry them up for tea.

Ivana Trump, the fabulously wealthy beekeeper, is a lady who takes her wardrobe seriously. Even in her present predicament, suffering from a sprained ankle, details have to be just so. Too vain to use crutches, she has taken to hopping about New York in a strange, loping manner dragging her leg in plaster behind her. Not any old plaster, mind you. She refused to contemplate a regulation white cast and opted instead for designer blue — with sequins.

### Hanky ready

DRAMATIC NEWS. Dame Diana Rigg's daughter Rachel Stirling, a 19-year-old student of Russian and the history of art at Edinburgh University, is taking to the stage this month in her first leading role.

She will play Desdemona in the National Youth Theatre's production of *Othello* at the Bloomsbury Theatre in London — a role she has



O. Desdemona

been shaping up for ever since she took the star turn as Mary in a nativity play opposite a Joseph she simply couldn't stand.

Rachel has been taking tips from her Mum. "She gave me the script of *Othello* for my birthday, with lots of Post-it notes offering suggestions about posture and things," she says. "I do take her advice — when I agree."

P.H.S





## HEART AND HEAD

Mr Yeltsin is unwise to add to Russia's succession jitters

In old-established democracies, evasiveness is a tolerated political vice — unedifying but rarely capable of serious harm. In a polity as unproven as that of Russia, it can be highly destabilising. One consequence of years of systematic official suppression of information is that when people realise they are being once more kept in the dark, they automatically suspect a malign conspiracy. In the two months since his remarkable election victory, Boris Yeltsin has been almost invisible and, still more tellingly, inaudible even when — notably over Chechnya — a presidential decision was indispensable. The announcement that he is to undergo heart surgery later this month has the great merit of levelling with the voters.

Uncertainties of a different kind will not be so simply resolved. Mr Yeltsin has not been as inactive as he appeared to be during these weeks of relentless rumours. He has prepared the ground for this announcement carefully — notably by taking considerable, and characteristic, precautions to leave no one in the Kremlin a monopoly of the powers that he must inevitably delegate during what may well be a prolonged absence.

Some of these manoeuvres make sense. Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, has been given clear authority to run the Government; but the key political figure in the coming months will be Anatoli Chubais, the economic reformer who did so much to ensure Mr Yeltsin's re-election and who has been appointed the Kremlin chief-of-staff.

The division of responsibilities between day-to-day government and political management is necessary because Russia's election season is not over. By law, all 89 regional governments in the Russian Federation must be democratically elected by the end of this year — and that means that in about 50 of them, elections are imminent. The Communists, who already dominate the Lower House of the federal Parliament, are geared for battle and Mr Chubais will have

his work cut out seeing them off. The results matter, both because uncooperative local bosses can sabotage reforms decided in Moscow and because the Upper House of the federal Parliament is made up of regional leaders. If the Communists sweep the board, Russia could become almost as ungovernable as it was before the show-down against Duma hardliners in 1993.

By contrast, Mr Yeltsin's treatment of Aleksandr Lebed, the general he swept into the Kremlin as secretary of the Security Council last June, shows how little the highly personalised nature of Kremlin power struggles has been transformed by electoral democracy. The creation of a new Defence Council, in which Mr Lebed is only one of several voices, was a prudent reaction to the former general's early, rash demands for ever wider powers. The same cannot be said for Mr Yeltsin's devious undermining of Mr Lebed's efforts to end the Chechnya conflict.

Whatever doubts Mr Yeltsin and his Government may have about the referendum Mr Lebed has offered on Chechnya's eventual status, that lies five years into the future. The immediate need, for the Russian military, for the republic's Chechen and many Russian citizens and for the Russian economy, is to end an unwinnable, unpopular and inordinately expensive conflict.

Mr Lebed has come close to a breakthrough, only to be humiliated by Mr Yeltsin's decision this week to heap honours on General Anatoli Kulakov, the Interior Minister whose troops have made such brutally incompetent work of handling the Chechen crisis. The President is all too obviously motivated by succession jitters. That can only make Russians more nervous, just when they need to be convinced that an effective, united Government is there to take the political strain. Mr Yeltsin has been brave about his health; but about his political future, he is showing himself as nervous as any Bolshevik.

## MAN AND MINOTAUR

When an English architect changed the boundaries of Europe

There are people to whom numbers talk, to whom the profit or loss in a page of figures is as clear as a friendly voice. There are people who solve anagrams in seconds and see the original design in a long-neglected garden. Some crack military codes; others are the first to read messages from the past.

The name of Michael Ventris, architect, wartime bomber navigator and designer of schools, is not much heard today. Yet, as a postwar amateur in a pool of sharp-toothed professionals, he pushed back the written origins of Europe: in 1952 he proved that unfamiliar scratches on 3,300-year-old Cretan clay tablets were Greek. The legendary King Minos, his labyrinth and maybe even his Minotaur, were suddenly within reach. The prehistoric was suddenly part of history.

The decipherment of Linear B was an inspirational act. It happened at around the same time as the first ascent of Everest and caught the same Coronation spirit. Before Ventris made his discovery the Mycenaeans were a speechless people known for their king, Agamemnon, their glorious golden treasures and a much-disputed place in mythology. After Ventris's pathbreaking "Work Note 20" the Mycenaeans became a people with a tongue; their tablets could tell once more about what had mattered to them, their accounts, their weapons, their sheep and the rations for their slaves.

Ventris, and his collaborator John Chadwick, used techniques which had been developed for tracking U-boats. They stared at the dull grey tablets, gave numbers to the most frequently occurring symbols and, while many scholars had failed to see a pattern and some had seen patterns that were false, Ventris saw the truth: Linear B was the earliest known form of Greek. The symbols belonged to the earlier Minoan

civilisation of Crete, the people famed for Minos their king, the Minotaur his nasty pet, and the labyrinth where the pet ate the king's enemies. But the language was the one which would become that of Homer and the first European enlightenment.

Like all radical visions, Ventris's decipherment met fierce conservative resistance, notably in Germany, Scotland and Greece itself. Only later, when the word for a three-legged cauldron coincided indisputably with a picture, were the doubters stilled. Some of the most rabidly sceptical remained so for the rest of their lives.

The subject matter of the Linear B tablets seems never to have extended beyond the bureaucratic and the domestic. Although we can read the words for "total" and "deficit", "sheep-pen" and even "labyrinth", the most significant parts of the tablets were always the parts denoting numbers. No poetry has ever been found; while subsequent decipherers have sought literature in the mysterious Phaistos Disc and other Cretan tablets still uncracked, none has had Ventris's instinct, fortune or eye.

The legacy of Michael Ventris includes the cadre of international scholars who have developed his work. Some are today discovering new tablets, showing how the unity of the Greek language extended over ever wider areas than previously thought. Some are identifying individual scribes who worked in the treasure-houses of Greek kings. Some work to understand the broader cultural boundary between the last Bronze Age years and the beginnings of classical civilisation. All of them, and many more besides, may wish to recall for a moment that, exactly 40 years ago today, Michael Ventris, aged 34, was killed in a car crash on the Great North Road.

## TIME LORDS

French ministers meddle with the clocks at their peril

The Gaullist French Government elected last year has broken the habit of consulting its neighbours and partners about anything and everything. Not content with displays of proud independence over the Middle East, the Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, has now abruptly decreed that France will be temporarily semidetached from the rest of the continent. The country's clocks will not go forward each spring. Summertime travellers crossing the Rhine between France and Germany will reset their watches as they cross the river.

To outsiders, it might seem a little perverse for France to be opting out of single European time when its Government is so doggedly insistent that it will be at the rendezvous for the single European currency. But the political heirs of General de Gaulle scorn such quibbles. For 30 years after the war and throughout de Gaulle's years in power, France shared Britain's summertime and stayed an hour behind its other neighbours. If it was good enough for the General, it is good enough for the 1990s.

M Juppé should beware. People who fink with Europe's clocks tend to be either evangelists, German generals or dis-appointed energy savers: all have chafed at the restrictions of a discipline which did not

Republican Calendar which abolished weeks, Sundays and traditional nomenclature. The system was in use only six years.

More than a century after Benjamin Franklin first floated the idea in a whimsical moment in 1784, a London builder called William Willets urged Britain to adopt summertime. Willets's scheme was both logical and daft, a combination which tends to recur among people obsessed with improving time zones. Willets wanted to advance 80 minutes each spring in four separate changes of 20 minutes each. By the time his scheme was rejected by the House of Commons, the plan had been simplified to a single change of an hour.

At the height of the First World War and as the days grew longer in 1916, Germany put its clocks forward an hour. Britain struck back and did the same; if workers rose an hour earlier, they could work for an hour without having to turn lights on. For the two years of Germany's incomplete occupation of France in the next war, its troops kept German summer time in the occupied zone; Vichy France stayed an hour behind. In the 1970s, President Giscard d'Estaing hoped to soften the impact of the oil crisis by a further shift into line with the rest of Western Europe. But an extra hour of daylight would have meant little or no fuel

## Whose responsibility is it to fund the performing arts?

From Mr Robert Ponsonby

Sir, It is noticeable that in sport and athletics we do rather badly because of seriously inadequate funding, while in the performing arts we do exceedingly well despite seriously inadequate funding.

To that extent we must welcome the pledge from Mary Allen, Secretary-General of the Arts Council ("Why we've relented", Arts, and leading article, September 3) that it will fight for the restitution of cuts in government grants and for the principle that lottery money must never replace state subsidy.

But what a mealy-mouthed statement it was in other respects. When literally hundreds of our musicians, actors and dancers live in recurrent uncertainty on low and fluctuating incomes, the Arts Council can think of nothing better than to set aside about £5 million — a small and suspect sum as your leading article the same day suggests — for the pilot phase of a "stabilisation programme" from which no more than 15 organisations will benefit.

In September next year the council will "consider a full programme". One wonders how many orchestras and theatre and dance companies will have gone under by then.

There is a crisis in the performing arts and the Arts Council should forthwith establish an emergency fund (deriving from lottery money). Then, when a breathing space has been secured, it should develop a strategy for revenue funding, again through the lottery. And, at this stage,

amateur bodies should not be eligible for support: our professionals must come first.

Perhaps the most depressing aspect of Ms Allen's statement was that she never once mentioned the quality of the work our artists do, nor of the need to sustain and enhance that quality.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT PONSONBY  
(Director, Music, BBC, 1972-85,  
Flat 4.11 St Cuthbert's Road, NW2,  
September 3.)

From Mr Desmond Longfield

Sir, My main concern over the new Arts Council proposals is that, once again, they favour the large over the small and the theatre over the concert hall.

Music is very costly. Concerts are "one-off" events and their associated expenses are high. The cost of a London concert with orchestra is between £12,000 and £30,000. Ticket sales are unlikely to cover more than half, so the rest must be raised from sponsorship or corporate financial support.

As your report shows, such costs do not qualify for National Lottery grants at present, but the proposed rules outlined by Mary Allen would appear to perpetuate the exclusion of organisations, such as the one of which I am chairman, because of the minimum audience limit of 25,000 a year.

Our organisation has no fixed location, buildings or other capital assets on which to base an application for lottery funds.

There should surely be a source of funding for the smaller organisations

which form a major part of the musical activity of this country.

Yours faithfully,  
DESMOND LONGFIELD  
(Chairman, Corydon Orchestra  
and Singers Ltd),  
Pacombe Farm House,  
Downton, Salisbury, Wiltshire,  
September 3.)

From Professor Emeritus John Pick

Sir, Mary Allen gives an appealing picture of the 800 organisations sharing £500 million in lottery grants, but it is a highly partial one. A truer picture would also show the many groups which are spending vast amounts of time and money assembling a bid which meets the lottery's increasingly convoluted criteria, often losing their original vision in the process. It would show groups which have been successful in their bids now desperately trying to attract matching funds from the increasingly barren private sector.

Ms Allen is right to say that, for most arts organisations, costs are rising and revenue shrinking. What she might have added is that increased costs are partly caused by the need to pay the army of officers, advisers, consultants and assessors that has sprung up to service the lottery, and whose ministrations are now inseparable from making a lottery bid.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN PICK,  
Willow Cottage,  
20 High Street, Sutton on Trent,  
Newark, Nottinghamshire,  
September 3.

## Party democracy

From Mr Paul Richards

Sir, It is a trifle rich for a Conservative, Mr John E. Stratford (letter, September 2), to describe the Labour Party's internal workings as a "sham democracy".

The Labour Party has a system of one member, one vote which empowers every party member. Individuals can vote for the party leader, representatives on the national executive and parliamentary candidates. We are in the middle of a process which will give up to 400,000 party members a say on the election manifesto. Labour is even releasing the names of business donors to party coffers in the interests of openness (report, August 27).

By contrast, Conservative Association members cannot vote for the party leader, nor for candidates. The Tory manifesto is drawn up in secret and donations to the party are shrouded in secrecy. If Mr Stratford's Campaign for Conservative Party Democracy is demanding changes to party structures, he might start with a demand to open Central Office accounts to public scrutiny.

I remain, Sir, etc.  
PAUL RICHARDS  
(Labour prospective parliamentary  
candidate for Billericay),  
109 Hammersmith Bridge Road, W6,  
September 4.

## Royal divorce

From Mr Ian Curteis

Sir, I am very much saddened by the peevish tone of some of your correspondents who write today about the Prince of Wales's future (see also, letters, September 5).

I urge them to base their judgment not on how the media present him, but on his own words. His book, *A Vision of Britain*, ostensibly about architecture but in effect an extended metaphor and blueprint of his values as our future King; the actual wording of his speeches and articles, not how some sections of the press dish them up; and his diaries as quoted in David Dimbleby's biography — all mark him out as the most intelligent and cultivated member of the Royal Family, certainly since Prince Albert and probably since Charles I.

He is an exceptional man in an exceptional job and we are lucky far beyond our deserts to have him.

Yours truly,  
IAN CURTEIS,  
The Mill House, Coln St Aldwyns,  
Cirencester, Gloucestershire,  
September 3.

## Death on the roads

From Mr Martin Lyth

Sir, On August 31 you published a souvenir edition of your supplement, Car 96, marking the celebration in Coventry of a century of motoring. There is indeed cause to celebrate the 100 years ago, and the employment that the car industry has created. But we should not forget the cost.

This edition does not mention the escalating toll on the environment — ie, that since August 17, 1896, there have been 500,000 road deaths in Britain and 30 million people injured.

How can we be so complacent about these figures whilst headlines are filled and governments are rocked by a dozen deaths that may have been due to "mad cow" disease?

Measures are urgently needed to reduce the appalling human cost of motoring.

Yours faithfully,  
M. LYTH.

## Innovation investment

From Professor George D. W. Smith, FRSE

Sir, The inadequacy of the current handling of innovation in Britain has been highlighted in your columns in recent weeks, as exemplified by the experiences of Sir Frank Whittle and Sir Christopher Cockerell (letters, August 15, 21, 26, September 1). Now we need to consider what can be done to improve the situation.

One specific proposal would be to reform the tax treatment of research and development (R&D) expenditure. At present, there is no mechanism to allow companies to roll forward funds from one year to another for reinvestment in R&D. Only current-year expenditure is allowed. All other "profits" are immediately subject to corporation tax. This is an absurdity, especially for high-technology industry, where the total product lifetime is often about five years.

Funds need to be accumulated within the company during the early years of one product cycle, in order to develop the successor. Expenditure is not uniform over the life cycle — it is peaked heavily towards the end. Many innovative small companies in this country never survive to produce a second-generation product.

## At arm's length

From Mr David Montrose

Sir, It may have been amusing that Mr J. R. Thompson's florist used the same traditional method to measure out six metres of ribbon, as she would previously have done to measure out six yards (letter, September 2); but I bet she charged him for the non-existent twenty or so inches (or fifty-one-and-a-bit centimetres) extra.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID MONTROSE,  
30 Caverswall Road,  
Blythe Bridge, Staffordshire,  
September 2.

From Mr A. Osbaldiston

Sir, Mr John Thompson may have got six yards or six metres of ribbon depending on the way the assistant looked when measuring.

A yard's length was frequently measured from the tip of the nose, when looking straight ahead, to the end of an outstretched arm.

If the assistant liked you they often looked away from the outstretched arm — one metre, or alternatively, if they disliked you, looked towards the outstretched arm — less than a yard.

Yours sincerely,  
A. OSBALDISTON,  
Kinder, Pinkham Lane,  
Clebury Mortimer,  
Kidderminster, Worcestershire,  
September 3.

From Mr John E. Collins

Sir, A florist friend of mine was told by the local weights and measures inspector that the scratched one metre marks on his counter were not acceptable, even though his ribbon was sold in yards and measured in metres to avoid overcharging.

When the florist pointed out that the cost of the required regulation-stamped brass metre measure would take a couple of years to recoup with the small amount of ribbon he sold, the inspector advised that there was no need to use a standard measure; ribbon could be sold by "the length".

Now my friend uses the original scratched marks on his counter and tells the customer that they represent one length — all perfectly legal apparently.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN E. COLLINS.

Present tax rules are a key reason for this. Paradoxically, there are excellent mechanisms for siphoning funds out of companies (eg, tax-exempt pension funds) and on the capital account side there is an entrepreneur's allowance which aids the buying and selling of small companies. But at present there is no equivalent allowance on the revenue account, although a scheme parallel to that for the capital account would be very easy to devise.

A proposal to allow deferment of taxation on profits derived from R&D which are reinvested in such expenditure was put to the House of Commons Standing Committee D in March 1995 by Mr Stephen Timmins, MP, as an amendment to the 1995 Finance Bill. However, the amendment was withdrawn after the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, Sir George Young, promised to keep the whole matter under review. Nothing has been heard of it since.

It's time to take another look at this. Which political party will be first to offer assistance to UK companies (especially smaller enterprises) to innovate?

Yours sincerely,  
GEORGE SMITH,  
University of Oxford,  
Department of Materials,  
Parks Road, Oxford,  
September 2.

## Irish conservation

From Mrs F. M. Patterson

Sir, I feel I must reply to remarks by Michael Harrington, Chairman of Cork County Council, about "foreigners" who have objected to new developments in the Beara peninsula. Co Cork (report, August 26).

I am not a foreigner — I was born and educated on the West Coast — but I feel exactly as these "blow-ins" do.

I visit Co Sligo as often as possible and am appalled at the number of new "eyesores" — snow-white Spanish-style bungalows with arches, which seem to spring up like mushrooms. They sit out so prominently on the most picturesque locations.

In contrast, right on the coast of Sligo, in Yeats country, there are some beautifully restored houses and old school houses, which Germans have worked long and hard to make into beautiful homes.

There must be some control on the siting of these new monstrosities. On this issue I am entirely on the side of anyone who is trying to protect our beautiful countryside.

Yours sincerely,  
F. M. PATTERSON,  
34 Larne Road,  
Carrickfergus, Co Antrim.

## ID card security

From Mrs Jill Paton Walsh

Sir, Ann Widdecombe's reassurances about the security of the new identity cards (letter, September 4) are very far from reassuring. We are to be asked to carry cards bearing encoded information which we cannot ourselves read?

Before we create the means for a detailed and unchallengeable surveillance, however benign the announced purpose of such a system, we should ask ourselves if we can think, in the course of history, of a single example of a power once created not used, once used not abused?

Yours sincerely,  
JILL PATON WALSH,  
72 Water Lane, Histon, Cambridge,  
September 4.

Business letters, page 27

Letters to the Editor should...

## 'Stable future' for Naval College

From Dame Jennifer Jenkins

Sir, I was surprised that Libby Purves should suggest that the group advising on the future of the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, which I chaired (Chairman, Corydon Orchestra and Singers Ltd), Paccombe Farm House, Downton, Salisbury, Wiltshire, September 3.

Ms Allen gives an appealing picture of the 800 organisations sharing £500 million in lottery grants, but it is a highly partial one. A truer picture would also show the many groups which are spending vast amounts of time and money assembling a bid which meets the lottery's increasingly convoluted criteria, often losing their original vision in the process. It would show groups which have been successful in their bids now desperately trying to attract matching funds from the increasingly barren private sector.

Ms Allen is right to say that, for most arts organisations, costs are rising and revenue shrinking. What she might have added is that increased costs are partly caused by the need to pay the army of officers, advisers, consultants and assessors that has sprung up to service the lottery, and whose ministrations are now inseparable from making a lottery bid.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN PICK,  
Willow Cottage,  
20 High Street, Sutton on Trent,  
Newark, Nottinghamshire,  
September 3.

I believe that the university and the museum, working in close partnership as they intend, will have a unique opportunity to create a centre of international importance for maritime research and studies in London's architectural masterpiece by the Thames.

Yours faithfully,  
JENNIFER JENKINS,  
2 Kensington Park Gardens, W11,  
September 5.

From the Reverend Basil Watson

Sir, Your report (September 3) on what I regard as the continuing shambles in the arrangements for the future of the Royal Navy College at Greenwich fill me with the sort of dismay that only such a botched-up job can do.

The Ministry of Defence clearly has no heart for what so many cherish as our stirring maritime tradition; and National Heritage reveals little concern for the glories of our Wren buildings or it would never leave the future financing of such a site to flimsy chance.

Greenwich is much too significant in our national life to get such cavalier treatment. It can never be too late, surely, to think again from the beginning on an issue of such magnitude.

Yours faithfully,  
BASIL WATSON,  
(Chaplain and History Tutor,  
Royal Naval College, 1952-55),  
19 Straightsmouth, Greenwich, SE10,  
September 3.

## Berners on record

From Mr Frederick Barker

Sir, "When did you last hear any Lord Berners?" asks Rodney Milnes (Arts, August 31). This morning, as it happens, there are now several CDs of Berners's inventive orchestral work (praised by Stravinsky) — and one hopes that there will soon be a re-issue of the record which collected a number of his diverse small-scale works such as an excellent polka for piano and the mock music-hall song, *Come On, Algerian*.

If his novels are curiosities, Berners's memoirs certainly make enjoyable reading and one would welcome an exhibition of his paintings. Such free-ranging spirits are all too rare nowadays.

Yours faithfully,  
FREDERICK BARKER,  
41 Bagworth Road,  
Newbold Heath, Leicestershire,  
August 31.

## Street signs

From Sir Donald Tebbitt

Sir, The richly deserved tributes to Phyllis Pearsall (Obituary, August 29) highlight the contrast between the excellence of modern A-Z street maps and the inadequate signing of the streets themselves.

At most street corners you will be able to discover fairly easily the name of the side street you are passing. But will you be able to discover the name of the main road you are already on? Not for miles!

Yours sincerely,  
DONALD TEBBITT,  
Priory Cottage,  
Church Road, Toft, Cambridge,  
September 1.

## Unholy risk

From the Reverend David Smith

Sir, Alan Coren is not alone (article, September 4), I, too, was refused home insurance by a "direct" company after I told them my house could occasionally be used for meetings of Anglican clergy. Are they confusing a "house of prayer" with a "den of thieves"?

I am now insured by Ecclesiastical.

Yours sincerely,







## OBITUARIES

## CLEM THOMAS

Clem Thomas, rugby player, journalist and businessman, died of a heart attack on September 5 aged 67. He was born on January 28, 1929.

There was no larger than life character in rugby than R.C.C. "Clem" Thomas. He was the scourge of opposing back lines as a rampaging back forward, and when his career finally ended in 1959, he picked up the pen to write with similar conviction on the sport he loved. He enjoyed nothing more than a good challenge, and away from the field of play he twice stood as a Liberal candidate in his native West Wales. Although he failed to get elected, he went on to stand as an MEP. He was a fierce critic of rugby's governing bodies, and his forthright views were broadcast across the world. Moreover, they were listened to and respected by all.

He died of a heart attack at his Swansea home just two hours after completing a radio interview about the current strife afflicting Welsh rugby. Ironically, his death occurred only hours before it was announced that the five nations' championship he had adorned as a player in the 1950s had been saved from the sporting scrapheap.

Born in Cardiff, Richard Clement Thomas was sent to Blundell's School in Tiverton, Devon. His debut for Wales came at Cardiff Arms Park in 1946, when the Welsh Secondary Schools Under-19 team defeated the English Public Schools 11-9.

At the time he was described as "a hardworking, fast and intelligent wing-forward". He never lost those qualities in his senior career, yet added a steely, uncompromising edge to his play.

He won three more schoolboy caps in 1946 and 1947, never ending on the losing side, before going up to Cam-

bridge. He won a Blue in the 1949 defeat by Oxford, yet a year earlier he had helped the students to take Cardiff's 18-month ground record with a magnificent triumph at the Arms Park.

By the time he won his Blue he had already played for Wales. That honour came in the final game of the 1949 five nations' championship against France at Stade Colombes. It proved to be an inauspicious start for the 20-year-old as Wales slumped to their third defeat of the series and picked up the wooden spoon.

He had to wait three years, and 12 games, for his next international, although it proved to be a wholly more agreeable experience. This time Wales ran out 14-3 victors over Ireland at Lansdowne Road; he scored a try and made another, and Wales became winners of the triple crown. He quickly developed into a permanent fixture and eventually captained his coun-

try nine times in 1958 and 1959, leading them to five wins.

Arguably his most famous moment came in the 1953 International at the Arms Park against New Zealand. He had been in the Swansea side that had held the tourists to a 6-6 draw a week earlier, but played a key role in helping Wales to go one better on December 19, 1953.

The game was locked at 8-8 with five minutes to play when Thomas, who had earlier done duty as an emergency wing while Gareth Griffiths was having his dislocated shoulder replaced, snatched up the ball on the All Blacks' 22 on the South Stand side.

He looked across the field to the wide open spaces and let fly with the most famous cross-kick in postwar rugby. Ken Jones, Wales's Olympic sprinter on the wing, raced in to gather the bouncing ball, served past the New Zealand full back Ron Jorden and scored at the posts. Wales won the game 13-8 and Thomas

joined the ranks of those Welsh immortals who have played on a winning side against New Zealand.

For Swansea, he played in the sides that fell to narrow defeats against the 1951 Springboks and 1957 Wallabies, but he led the Welsh team to a 9-3 triumph over Australia in 1958.

The determination of the man was best epitomised by his refusal to return from the British Lions tour of South Africa in 1955 after having his appendix removed. Far from being held back by the experience, he went on to play a vital role in helping the Lions to share the series, playing in two tests, including the 9-6 win in Pretoria.

His 26th and final Welsh cap came against France in 1959 and had a similar result to his debut, a defeat in Paris. No sooner had he hung up his boots than he picked up the pen and began a new career in journalism writing for *The Observer*.

Clem Thomas was a wholesale butcher by trade in the family business — indeed one opponent described him as the only man he knew to take his profession onto the field with him. He went on to work as *The Observer's* chief rugby writer, a position he held for almost 35 years. He finished with the paper two years ago and stepped across the broad sheets to write for the *Independent on Sunday*.

He was twice rewarded in the annual Whitbread/Rugby World Honours for his services to journalism and was a character who could light up any press box or press conference. He wrote the book *Welsh Rugby* with Geoff Nicholson in 1980 and was in the process of proof-reading the official history of the British Lions.

He is survived by his four children from his first marriage in 1954 to Anne, and also by his second wife, Joyce, whom he married in 1980. One of his sons is also a Cambridge Blue.



## EMILY KNGWARREYE



Emily Kngwarreye, Aboriginal artist, died in hospital in Alice Springs on September 2. She is thought to have been born in about 1910.

EMILY KNGWARREYE was one of Australia's leading artists. Although she only started painting in 1988, when she was well into her seventies, her achievement was immense. The spontaneity of her colour-filled work projected Aboriginal art to a new and international audience. Her paintings were eagerly acquired by public galleries and private collectors alike.

Emily Kame Kngwarreye — who became known simply by her Christian name, Emily — was born in Alagura (Soakage Bore) at Utopia, northeast of Alice Springs. An Eastern Anmatjere speaker, she did not see any white people until she was about nine years old.

As a young woman she worked as a stockhand on various properties in the area. She also learnt the sacred traditions of her people, having been adopted by Jacob Jones, a senior lawman in the Alayawarre community, and instructed by him. She became a leader in the women's ceremonial business at Utopia.

Aboriginal ceremonial business has a strong visual element, with bold body decoration and the mapping out of dreamtime stories in the sand with coloured earths, grasses and feathers, but it was only in the 1970s that these traditional motifs began to be used as "art".

At Utopia in 1977 Jenny Green, a visiting linguist, established an arts-and-crafts

programme for the women. They began with batik-making, adapting their traditional body-markings and forms to this medium. Emily's work, even then, stood out for its freedom and vigour.

In 1988-89 the women's group, under a new art adviser, Rodney Gooch, began working with acrylics on canvas, and Emily responded eagerly to this new challenge. It was, she found, a medium more suited to the bold immediacy of her style. From then, up to a few days before her death, she continued to paint with extraordinary power and invention.

Although to European eyes her pictures might appear almost abstract, they in fact depict her country — its animal and vegetable life, its terrain, its mythical origins, its changing patterns, the intertwining life-cycles and mythical meanings.

Emily's painting technique, from the start, was individual and distinctive, marked by boldness of colour and strength of design. Her extraordinary talent was recognised almost at once. In 1990 Emily's work was shown at two very successful one-woman shows in Sydney, and in 1992 she received an Australian Artist's Creative Fellowship from the Government.

Much alarm was occasioned at this time, when Emily (who spoke no English) appeared to think that the AS110,000 award was a sort of retirement present and was contenting upon her stopping painting. Happily, however, this confusion was soon cleared up. It was fortunate not only for the art world, but



Emily with London gallery owner Rebecca Hossack

also for Emily herself, she loved to paint and even during her period of doubt had continued to work, telling her friends not to tell Paul Keating, then Australian Prime Minister.

By 1993 she had been represented in more than 50 exhibitions around the world. She had her first solo show in Britain in 1994 at the Rebecca Hossack Gallery, London.

In the seven years since Emily began painting, her style grew simpler and more expressive. She shifted from

using great light-filled splodges of colour to a more stark, linear style. Her masterpiece in this manner — *Big Yam Dreaming* — painted in white on a black ground, was recently presented to the National Gallery of Victoria, where it was hailed as Australia's equivalent to Jackson Pollock's *Blue Poles*.

A tiny figure — barely five feet high — Emily painted sitting on the ground, holding the brush in either hand and pushing the paint onto the canvas in bold dabs as she

worked with steady concentration from the outside edge of the canvas towards the centre.

Her great success did inevitably bring some problems. There was constant pressure on her to produce, not only from art dealers but also from her own extended family, who, after the Aboriginal fashion, shared in her financial rewards (and it is estimated that she earned as much as \$450,000 a year by her painting). Inevitably, with such demands upon her, she produced some work of lesser quality. And there are even those who see the simplification of her late style as a means of producing work more quickly.

For the most part, however, she loved her success, enjoying the opportunities it gave her to give presents to friends and relatives. She had no children of her own. She continued, until the end, to live the traditional Aboriginal life, gathering food in the bush and sleeping out in her bough shelter at Soakage Bore.

Bob Brown, former Labour MP and junior minister, died on September 3 aged 75. He was born on May 16, 1921.

A NEWCASTLE-upon-Tyne MP for more than 20 years and a junior minister in three separate departments during the Wilson and Callaghan Governments, Bob Brown was classic "old" Labour. He believed in loyalty to his leaders but he believed even more firmly in his party's traditional policies, particularly public ownership and partnership with trade unions.

He entered the Commons, like many of his colleagues, through the local government and trade union route. But unlike most of them he had practical experience of manual work. He was a plumber and gas fitter by trade.

Brown joined the Labour Party when he was 16 and served in every capacity from ward worker to constituency agent. He proceeded to Newcastle County Borough Council where he became chief whip. He entered the Commons in 1966 where he immediately became a notable battler for the interests of the North of England. Ironically, in view of Labour's present policies, his then conventional views were regarded as unsalubly right of centre.

Robert Crofton Brown was born in Newcastle and educated at elementary school, technical school and at Rutherford College. He started work as an apprentice plumber before

serving in the war with the Royal Signals. On his return he became a district inspector with the Northern Gas Board.

He was always a keen union man but his activities turned more and more to the political field. For 16 years he was secretary and agent of the Newcastle West constituency party and during this time he



was elected to Newcastle County Borough Council, where he played a big part in planning the new Scotswood Bridge.

Then, in 1966, he inherited the Newcastle West seat of Ernest (later Lord) Popplewell and increased the 1964 majority of 8,454 to 12,217. In the House he was a stout supporter of the Wilson Government against its left-wing critics. He fought vigorously for the rights of elderly and disabled passengers to obtain travel concessions.

In 1968, just two years after entering the Commons, he was rewarded for his loyalty and Gordie common sense by being appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Transport. The 1970 Heath victory returned him to the back benches, but when Labour was returned to office in the first of the two 1974 elections he was made Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Social Security.

Then, in October 1974, after Wilson won again he became Under-Secretary for the Army. Here the former signaller was in his element. He had always had a tough attitude about defence, in contrast to the views of many of his colleagues, and the Army in turn appreciated his commitment.

Out of office when the Conservatives won in 1979, he devoted himself to getting a better deal for the North East. He complained constantly of Whitehall cuts in Newcastle's funding, and predicted that the Trident policy would affect naval service vessels and therefore his local shipyards. He was a great exponent of pigeon racing.

He switched from Newcastle West to Newcastle North in 1983 as a result of boundary changes, and in 1987 he decided to retire from Westminster. He had not lost his interest in politics, however, and became a Newcastle councillor again.

He married Marjorie Hogg in 1945. She survives him together with a son and daughter.

## THE VEN DAVID SCOTT

The Ven David Scott, former Archdeacon of Stow, died on August 31 aged 72. He was born on June 19, 1924.

CHORISTER at Westminster School; Trinity Hall, Cambridge; Cuddesdon Theological College, Oxford; curacy at St Mark's, Portsea: these are the ingredients for the formation of a Church of England clergyman in the best conventional mould, and David Scott fitted it with distinction.

He was, however, never a conformist. For example, he was in the stream of ex-public school ex-officers who were influenced into the Church's ordained ministry by the powerful combination at Trinity Hall of Lancelot Fleming, Owen Chadwick and Tony Tremlett; but David Scott's war background was exceptionally different. He had registered as a conscientious objector and worked for Italian prisoners-of-war.

After a brief spell in the London University Chaplaincy he became Vicar of Old Brumby in Scunthorpe in

1959. Here, far from settling into the parochial conventions, he helped to initiate a remarkable period of close co-operation across the parishes of the town.

At the heart of this movement was a fortnightly meeting where the clergy tussled with the radical theology of the Sixties. Scott fought from the conservative corner but he never took shelter in it, and his passion for teamwork helped to draw together men with deep diversities of outlook.

Moving to Boston in 1966, he quickly created a happy staff-team. The Rector of Boston has a weighty civic as well as ecclesiastical responsibility which Scott carried well, but for him it included befriending the cockle-fishermen (he was the only person they would allow on their fishing trips) and working with potato-pickers. He even joined the wildflowerers, complete with gun, though he never returned home with a duck: he was a keen birdwatcher.

When he became Archdeacon of Stow in 1975, it was soon discovered that his slightly

aloof, conventional manner was only the appearance of the man, though he was not to be trifled with. He held his convictions with passion and was quite fearless in expressing them when they were unpopular. He wasted no time on self-indulgence, of attitudes or of ideas, and was sharply witty in debunking them. Yet he was deeply sensitive to genuine suffering and went to great lengths to reach people whom he saw outcast.

His qualities became widely recognised and sought after, in and beyond the Diocese of Lincoln. His appointment as Chaplain to the Queen in 1984 was welcomed as a well-deserved distinction.

He continued to give service of many kinds from his retirement home in Southwell, in particular to the Westminster Old Choristers' Association, the Woodard Schools, and the newly formed Ecclesiastical Law Society, of which he was executive officer in its formative years.

He is survived by his wife Christine and their two adult children.

## ON THIS DAY

September 6, 1912

Bernard Darwin had been dispatched to cover the US event for *The Times* because Harold Hilton was the holder of the title, the only Briton to do so.

night he confided to friends that he had felt so ill in the morning that he would have given up the game if it would not have looked so bad before the American public. He had no food all day, but for all that he played something like his best game when he had hardly strength to stand, and he beat his man. This morning he came forward pluckily to the first tee. He made no complaint, but, bracing himself up as he addressed his ball, made a fine drive straight down the

known, however, that he was again feeling extremely unwell and had still taken no food. He played gamely through the round and was two up at one point and one down at the end of 18 holes. When he returned to the clubhouse, he was obliged to tell the officials that he was feeling worse and would like to see a doctor. Two doctors at once agreed that, while his case was not serious, it certainly would be so if he attempted to play any more, and they strictly forbade him to do so. Mr. Hunter protested, and said that, as he had gone so far, he would finish the match. It would have been something near suicide, so the doctors told me, and their advice was backed up by the officials of the United States Golf Association who said that they would in kindness absolutely refuse to allow him to play any more that day. In these circumstances, Mr. Hunter yielded. He was put to bed and ice was applied to his head. The doctors have given me assurances that no anxiety what ever need be felt

## PERSONAL COLUMN

<b>FLATSHARE</b> WATKINS London's foremost... 0171 580 5491	<b>FLIGHTS DIRECTORY</b> GURMANN Daily low cost flights... 0171 209 4000	<b>FLIGHTS DIRECTORY</b> NEW low fares... 0171 209 4000	<b>FLIGHTS DIRECTORY</b> AIRLINK WORLDWIDE... 0171 713 7770	<b>ANNOUNCEMENTS</b> Book publisher compiling a... 01273 700737
<b>SITUATIONS WANTED</b> BLUE CHIP SECURITY MANAGER... 0171 209 4000	<b>CAPITAL FLIGHTS</b> Daily... 0171 209 4000	<b>ANNOUNCEMENTS</b> CATHEDRAL from Wales at... 0171 209 4000	<b>ANNOUNCEMENTS</b> INDIAN Girl with acute... 0171 209 4000	<b>ANNOUNCEMENTS</b> YOUR WILL... 0171 209 4000
<b>RENTALS</b> CHURCHILL Designer's 3 bed... 0171 209 4000	<b>OVERSEAS TRAVEL</b> PORTUGAL & Canaries... 0171 209 4000	<b>ANNOUNCEMENTS</b> PLEASE SUPPORT ANIMALS IN NEED... 0171 209 4000	<b>ANNOUNCEMENTS</b> PLEASE SUPPORT ANIMALS IN NEED... 0171 209 4000	<b>ANNOUNCEMENTS</b> PLEASE SUPPORT ANIMALS IN NEED... 0171 209 4000
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## NEWS

## Major called as witness in libel case

John Major and Michael Heseltine have been asked to appear as witnesses in a £1 million libel case next month. They have been subpoenaed by *The Guardian* newspaper, along with the Cabinet Secretary Sir Robin Butler and the former Chief Whip Richard Ryder, to give evidence in a case being brought by the Conservative MP Neil Hamilton.

If he attended, Mr Major would be the first Prime Minister to be required to give evidence in court, although his lawyers may contest the subpoena. Page 1

## England return to five nations rugby

The five nations' championship was saved yesterday at a meeting between representatives of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales. The championship was in danger because the Celtic nations threatened to expel England. Pages 1, 44

## Heart op for Yeltsin

President Yeltsin has announced that he will undergo a heart operation later this month to treat a year-old affliction. Pages 1, 12

## New threat to Kurds

Turkish warplanes have attacked suspected bases of Turkish Kurds inside the safe area of northern Iraq. Pages 1, 13

## Losing their glow

A research project to find ways to raise luminous creatures in captivity has come to a standstill for lack of funds. Page 1

## Tax offensive

Kenneth Clarke led the Tory assault on Labour's tax policy, claiming that the average family will be £700 a year better off by next year. Page 2

## Stolen heart

A teenage girl held hostage with her family for four hours by a gang secretly dated one of the robbers for three weeks before telling police. Page 3

## All in the game

A board game that kept the Romans amused down the centuries has been found laid out and ready to play in a 2,000-year-old burial site in Essex. Page 3

## Diplomat faces jail

Robert Coughlan, a senior British diplomat, faces a seven-year prison sentence for smuggling paedophile videos into Britain. Page 5

## America bored by Oasis bad boy act

An attempt by Liam Gallagher, the lead singer of Oasis, to extend his notoriety across the Atlantic has fallen flat. Gallagher spat, clutched his crotch and swore during an awards ceremony in New York but his antics were largely ignored by the audience and the press, who seemed surprised that he had bothered to show up at all. Page 10



Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, left, with Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, in London yesterday

## BUSINESS

**Economy:** Britain's high streets are now seeing their best business since the late 1980s, according to the CBI. Page 23

**London:** Lomho is delaying the £700 million stockmarket flotation of its hotel division and is considering making a trade sale instead. Page 23

**Bad weather:** A sharp increase in worldwide weather claims dented pre-tax profits for Royal and Sun Alliance as it reported its first interim results as a merged company. Page 23

**Markets:** The FT-SE 100 index rose 14.5 points to close at 3887.2. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 85.6 to 85.8 after a rise from \$1.5658 to \$1.5680 and from DM2.3202 to DM2.3280. Page 26

## SPORT

**Motor racing:** Damon Hill said that his dismissal by the Williams team had only served to increase his determination to win the world drivers' championship. Page 44

**Crickets:** Michael Atherton will captain England on their winter tour to Zimbabwe and New Zealand. He has led England 35 times since 1993. Page 44

**Football:** The 15 Premiership clubs in the second round of the Coca-Cola Cup have all drawn lower-division opposition. Chelsea visit Blackpool and Middlesbrough go to Hereford. Page 41

**Equestrianism:** Mary King's run of success continued when she and Star Appeal took a comfortable lead on the first day of the Burghley Horse Trials. Page 41

## ARTS

**Dream team:** London sees a pair of *Midsummer Night's Dreams*: Yukio Ninagawa's production at the Mermaid and Northern Broad-sides at the Globe. Page 31

**Second chances:** In a new initiative, the British Film Institute is to offer professional public readings of British film scripts awaiting the kiss of life. Page 31

**Musical treats:** David Freeman stages *The Magic Flute* on the South Bank; while the Albert Hall hears new works by James MacMillan and James Dillon. Page 32

**Pop on Friday:** The Pet Shop Boys go to touch South American on their fine new album *Bilingual*, while REM find a new lease of magic in the potent brew of their *New Adventures in Hi-Fi*. Page 33

## TOMORROW

**JANE'S WORLD**  
Rachel Billington on writing the sequel to *Emma*, in the Magazine

**WIN A TV**  
£1,600 television and VCR to be won in 10 15, the magazine for young *Times* readers

## TV LISTINGS

**Preview:** More trouble looms for Nigel Le Vaillant's police surgeon, on duty and off it. *Dangerfield* (BBC1, 9.30pm). **Review:** Matthew Bond sees an *EastEnders* star go back to the 1950s. Page 43

## OPINION

## Heart and head

President Yeltsin has been brave about his health; but about his political future, he is showing himself to be as nervous as any Bolshevik. Page 19

## Man and minotaur

The decipherment of Linear B was an inspirational act. It happened at around the same time as the first ascent of Everest and caught the same Cordons spirit. Page 19

## Time lords

It might seem perverse for France to be opting out of single European time when it is so insistent that it will be at the rendezvous for the single currency. Page 19

## COLUMNS

## BERNARD LEVIN

There is no point in going over the details of the people who lived cheek by jowl with her and did not notice the dreadful dying of Karen Morgan; suffice it to say that they must have been blind, deaf and stupid, until they noticed that she was dead. Page 18

## MAGNUS LINKLATER

Words such as "farce", "débacle", "ridicule", "collapse", "silly" and "incompetent" have been the stuff of headlines. *The Scotsman* called it "a piteous spectacle". The *Herald* concluded that Labour was gambling with the political future of the country. Page 18

## PATRICK MAYHEW

Events in Northern Ireland over the summer have shown that the old prejudices can still erupt all too readily. Page 18

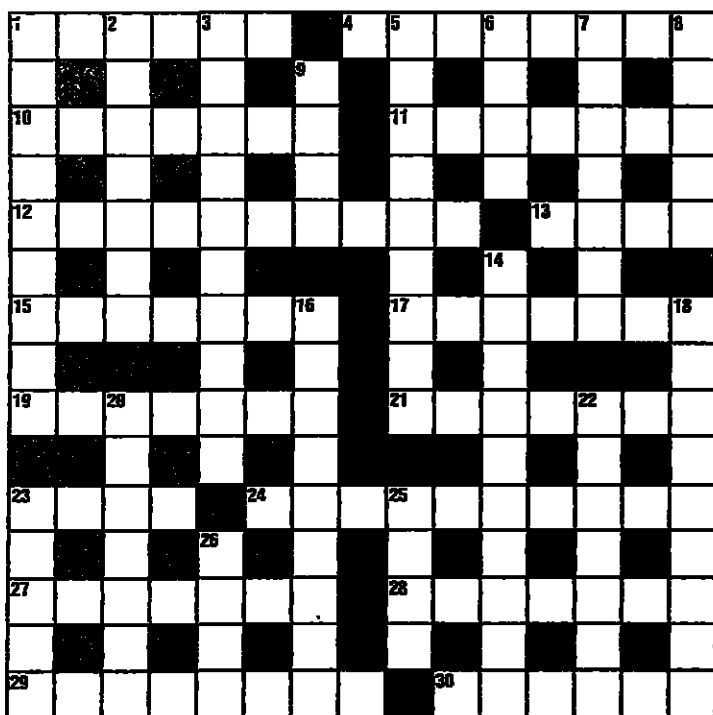
## OBITUARIES

**Clem Thomas**, rugby player and journalist; **Emily Kngwarreye**, Aboriginal artist; **Bob Brown**, Labour MP and junior minister; **The Ven David Scott**, Archdeacon of Stow. Page 21

## LETTERS

**Funding of the arts:** Naval College future; investing in innovation; royal divorce; party democracy; Irish conservation; road deaths; street signs. Page 19

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,266



- ACROSS**
- Edging hoop with iron on the outside (6).
  - Victory for Athenians, in the long run (8).
  - A large number failing to finish course of therapy (7).
  - One or two roads (7).
  - Club employee who appreciates a good deal in his job (10).
  - Have succeeded as a composer (4).
  - Results of explosions in the news (7).
  - Gear engineers installed in alarm (7).
  - Make it come next (7).
  - Mixed fruit flavour the Spanish love (7).
  - State of ignorance that's not fair (4).
  - Badly timed deals disturbed region (6,4).
- DOWN**
- Dress uniform? Not! (7).
  - Idly play around at this level of society (7).
  - In an excited state, taking a gamble (8).
  - One's not going to be a good long-distance runner (6).
  - Light up factory with spectacular display (9).
  - Exclusive company pouring out (2,5).
  - Animal protector's retreat after plucky fighting (4,6).
  - Barrow's Shavian production (9).
  - It's a northern-facing wine area (4).
  - Still we hang about (7).
  - Poet's contradictory responses (5). That's a big blow (4).
  - Everyone knows about this easy cryptic (4,6).
  - Party to children not the most important thing (4,5).
  - Performer in the round much more impressive than Petruccio (4,5).
  - Party to children not the most important thing (4,5).
  - Demand pound - the ultimate in usury - no more or less (7).
  - House where it's okay for Russians to take a drink (5).
  - Section of newspaper writer works on (4).
  - Formal order - about one gross (4).

## Solution to Puzzle No 20,265

MANICURE CATSUP  
O E O O F T W U  
L I V E R P O O L S T R E E T  
E S S A T I O N  
C O U R T A T A E A I  
H M S T E S  
F I R E S I D E D R A K E  
W O L D E R T A V E R R Y I A  
R E C U P L E P A S S I O N  
C O U R T A T A E A I  
L A B O U R I N T E N S I V E  
A E R D T C R N  
Y O R K E R W I D E E V E D

Times Two Crossword, page 44

## TIMES WEATHER

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hour, a day, dial 0801 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	East of London	West of London	South East	South West	West Midlands	East Midlands	North East	North West	Yorkshire & the Humber	East of England	West of England	Wales	North Wales	South Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	Republic of Ireland
702	703	704	705	706	707	708	709	710	711	712	713	714	715	716	717	718	719

Weather is charged at 30p per minute (cheap rate) and 40p per minute at all other times.

## AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0330 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	Area within M25	North of M25 (A1, A10, A103, A104, A105, A106, A107, A108, A109, A110, A111, A112, A113, A114, A115, A116, A117, A118, A119, A120, A121, A122, A123, A124, A125, A126, A127, A128, A129, A130, A131, A132, A133, A134, A135, A136, A137, A138, A139, A140, A141, A142, A143, A144, A145, A146, A147, A148, A149, A150, A151, A152, A153, A154, A155, A156, A157, A158, A159, A160, A161, A162, A163, A164, A165, A166, A167, A168, A169, A170, A171, A172, A173, A174, A175, A176, A177, A178, A179, A180, A181, A182, A183, A184, A185, A186, A187, A188, A189, A190, A191, A192, A193, A194, A195, A196, A197, A198, A199, A200, A201, A202, A203, A204, A205, A206, A207, A208, A209, A210, A211, A212, A213, A214, A215, A216, A217, A218, A219, A220, A221, A222, A223, A224, A225, A226, A227, A228, A229, A230, A231, A232, A233, A234, A235, A236, A237, A238, A239, A240, A241, A242, A243, A244, A245, A246, A247, A248, A249, A250, A251, A252, A253, A254, A255, A256, A257, 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